


**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** The USC Community

**FROM:** President Steven B. Sample 

**DATE:** February 17, 2009

**RE:** **Appointment of new vice president for government and community relations**

**Steven B. Sample**

President and  
Robert C. Packard  
Professor

I am pleased to announce that Thomas S. Sayles has agreed to serve as vice president for government and community relations and will begin his new position on March 2, 2009. He will report directly to Martha Harris, senior vice president for university relations, and will serve as part of my administrative team.

Tom was born and raised in the neighborhood around our University Park campus and attended public schools in the area. He brings to this position a history of working in the for-profit, nonprofit, and government sectors in California. He has served as well on the governing boards of the University of California and the California Community College systems. He is well connected at all levels of government in Los Angeles, the state of California, and Washington, D.C., and is committed to extending USC's work in the communities surrounding our two campuses.

He holds a law degree from Harvard Law School and a bachelor's degree "with distinction" from Stanford University, where he was elected to Phi Beta Kappa. He is currently senior vice president for government affairs and corporate communications for Rentech, Inc., an alternative fuels company headquartered in Los Angeles.

From 1994 to 2007 he worked for Sempra Energy and its predecessor companies, Pacific Enterprises and Southern California Gas Company, as vice president of government and community affairs and as senior vice president of consumer marketing. Before that, Tom served as California Commissioner of Corporations, and California Secretary of Business, Transportation, and Housing. He was also a deputy attorney general in the California attorney general's office and an assistant U.S. attorney.

Appointed by Gray Davis, Tom served on the Governor's Task Force on Diversity and Outreach, and the Commission on Building for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. He has served on the boards of directors of Golden State Bancorp (California Federal Bank) and a number of nonprofit groups. He is currently a member of the boards of Unified Grocers, a buying cooperative serving independent grocery stores through the western U.S., and of the Los Angeles Industrial Development Authority, which provides conduit bond financing to small and mid-sized businesses in L.A.

I know that you will join me in warmly welcoming Tom to the Trojan Family.