

UC VALLEY CONNECTION

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HIGHLIGHTING THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA'S CONNECTIONS AND CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY

QUOTE WORTHY

“California’s continued success in the global economy depends largely on our ability to bring the next generation of students into higher education and give them the knowledge and skills to be energetic contributors to our state.”

President Robert C. Dynes
University of California

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John Garamendi, (left) vice chancellor for university relations at UC Merced, talks with Kern County doctors at a community meeting in Bakersfield.

UC Merced plans to give Valley health care a boost

The San Joaquin Valley has fewer physicians per capita than the rest of California; has a higher incidence of health problems than other regions; and loses millions of dollars each year as local residents with health insurance seek care outside of the region. These disparities are increasing due to the Valley’s rapidly growing population.

UC Merced is leading an endeavor to plan now for enhanced health care in the region. The campus is developing health sciences programs, and Chancellor Carol Tomlinson-Keasey recently announced plans to develop medical education programs that are anticipated to lead to a school of medicine.

“A University of California school of medicine that leverages medical education opportunities in the communities it serves will raise the level of care across the Valley, change perceptions about health-care quality, keep health care dollars in the region and serve as an economic engine for the San Joaquin Valley,” Tomlinson-Keasey said.

In a report earlier this year, an expert

panel charged by UC Merced with beginning planning for health sciences and medical education in the Valley recommended a distributed model. Key aspects include:

- Leveraging existing health care resources;
- Training students at clinical sites throughout the region;
- Bypassing the \$2-4 million per bed price tag associated with constructing a new and university-owned teaching hospital; and
- Increasing the number of health-care professionals practicing in the Valley, particularly those that are competent in multicultural medicine.

Recently, UC Merced leaders conducted a series of meetings in Bakersfield, Fresno, Merced, Modesto, Stockton and Visalia to inform and engage Valley residents. Audiences have applauded the effort.

“With the San Joaquin Valley experiencing one of the worst physician shortages nationally, hospitals in this region struggle on a daily basis to find the physicians needed to meet patient demand,” said Tim Curley,

Valley health



UCSF Fresno matches up

UCSF Fresno recently announced the results of its nationwide search for medical school graduates who will conduct their residency training at the Fresno-based UC medical education program. For the first time in many years, UCSF Fresno's search resulted in a 100 percent physician-match rate with 58 new medical residents selecting UCSF Fresno as a top choice for the 2006-07 academic year.

"These medical residents chose UCSF Fresno and that speaks to the outstanding quality of our program, faculty and staff," said Joan Voris, associate dean at UCSF Fresno. "The 'match' also is significant to the Valley because one-third of these physicians will remain in the area to care for community members."

The new residents, which include a number of international students, are scheduled to arrive in June. Most of them will spend three to five years training at UCSF Fresno.

More than 2,500 medical students applied to UCSF Fresno this year. During a six-month period, UCSF Fresno interviewed 645 of the applicants to fill the 58 positions.

UC researcher aims to improve Valley and state water quality

Rob Atwill, a Bakersfield native and scientist at the UC Davis Veterinary Medicine Teaching & Research Center in Tulare, is conducting research in the same streams and mountains where he used to fish and hunt during his youth. The goal is to improve the water quality of agricultural watersheds in the Central Valley and throughout California. State Water Resource Control Board grants have enabled Atwill and his colleagues, Neil McDougald and Ken Tate, to focus on creating rangeland vegetated buffers for reducing water-borne pathogens, nutrients, and organic carbon in the tributaries of the Fresno and San Joaquin Rivers.

Atwill is an expert in the medical ecology of infectious diseases transferable between livestock, wildlife and humans. His latest research projects have addressed microbial contamination of surface and groundwater from watersheds in the Sierra Nevada Range, foothills along the San Joaquin Valley, and coastal regions of Central and Northern California.

"Our agricultural community is vital to the well-being of rural Californians, and practical solutions for maintaining agricultural water quality must be addressed," said Atwill.

UC helps kids connect food and farm

More than 1,600 Fresno County students got a taste of local farming at the first "Farm and Nutrition Day" in March at the Fresno County fairgrounds.

University of California Cooperative Extension joined with the Fresno County Farm Bureau and dozens of other Fresno County farm and nutrition agencies to give area third-graders a hands-on opportunity to become familiar with food, fiber and animal production. The event was intended to help the students develop skills in making healthy food choices.

The children observed cow milking, horseshoeing, sheep shearing and dogs demonstrating their sheep-herding skills. They also had the chance to enjoy Fresno produce, including oranges, raisins, berries and frozen peaches.

Several facets of UC Cooperative Extension participated, including 4-H youth who showed how to make ice cream in two coffee cans, representatives of Coop Extension's nutrition programs showing children how they can enjoy eating more fruit, and small-scale farm advisers displaying unusual specialty and ethnic vegetables.

The Fresno County Farm Bureau has plans to expand the event in 2007 to reach more of the county's nearly 15,000 third-graders.

regional vice president of the Hospital Council of Northern and Central California. "Training more physicians locally offers our best hope in both addressing this shortage and in improving access to quality, timely health care for our communities."

The California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley, established by Gov. Schwarzenegger to recommend actions that improve the economic well being of the Valley, and the San Joaquin Valley Supervisors Association have passed resolutions encouraging the development of medical education at UC Merced.

The announcement of UC Merced's plans marks the beginning of a process. The University of California must now consider the campus's proposal as part of the system's long-term planning process.

"UC has a long and proud tradition of education and research in the health sciences, and of serving the health needs of Californians" said Rory Hume, vice president for academic and health affairs and acting provost of the UC system.

"We are aware of the interests of both UC Merced and UC Riverside in developing new medical education programs to help better serve their respective regions, and their proposals will be fully reviewed as they come forward," Hume said.

Hume also noted that the university is working closely with all of its campuses to look at the roles they might play in helping to meet the state's many needs.

With academic medical centers on the Davis, Irvine, UCLA, San Diego and San Francisco campuses, the University of California trains two-thirds of the medical students in the state. Also, UC is California's fifth-largest health-care system. ■

CONTACT INFORMATION

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Doctors Academy recipients of the UCSF Merit Scholar Award (L to R), Chong Yang, Melissa Medina, Anna Tretayakov, Jessica Dunn and Robin Jugao, pose with UCSF Fresno and UCSF School of Medicine leaders at a recent campus visit.



Doctors Academy sends graduates to college

UCSF School of Medicine selects five students for early admission

By Diana Cantu | UCSF Fresno Latino Center for Medical Education and Research • and Brandy Ramos Nikaido | Strategic Communications | UC

High school senior Melissa Medina, 18, will be the first in her family to attend college. Though she has yet to start her freshman year at a four-year baccalaureate institution, she has already been selected by UCSF School of Medicine for early admission.

Robin Jugao, 17, also was awarded early admission to UCSF SOM. His immediate plans, however, include studying molecular sciences at UC Davis this fall.

Jugao and Medina are just two of the equally impressive 32 students set to graduate this June from the UCSF Fresno Sunnyside High School Doctors Academy Program.

“The class of 2006 is made up of an outstanding group of students who have raised the bar for all future students,” said Katherine A. Flores, director of the UCSF Fresno Latino Center for Medical Education and Research, which sponsors the Academy. “We wish them continued success as they transition to the next phase of their studies, and we look forward to them eventually returning to the Central Valley to provide health services to their community.”

The UCSF School of Medicine recognized five of the Doctors Academy graduating seniors, including Jugao and Medina, with the UCSF Merit Scholar Award. The

special recognition provides the students with consideration for early admission. All five have met the pre-entry requirements and demonstrated exceptional leadership and a commitment to pursuing careers in the health professions.

Recipients of the award and the universities they plan to attend are: Jessica Dunn, UC Berkeley; Jugao, UC Davis; Medina, Fresno State; Anna Tretayakov, Fresno State; and Chong Yang, UC Davis.

“I plan to serve my community by tutoring and mentoring students,” said Jugao. “As a Doctors Academy student, I was granted job shadow and internship experience with local health professionals who have inspired me to give back.”

All of the Doctors Academy graduates will continue their education at institutions of higher education this coming fall. Fourteen will attend University of California campuses, seven will attend California State University, Fresno and the remaining students will enroll at community or private colleges. Many are the first in their families to attend college.

The UCSF Fresno Latino Center, in partnership with Fresno Unified School District and the Fresno County Office of Education,

started the Doctors Academy in 1999 as a pilot program to encourage educationally disadvantaged students to pursue careers in health and medicine. The program has grown in scope and popularity, with 153 students currently enrolled. A Junior Doctors Academy Program was established in 2000 to provide middle school students with similar educational enrichment opportunities.

More details: www.fresno.ucsf.edu/latinocenter/dr-academy.htm ■

“I plan to serve my community by tutoring and mentoring students.”

Robin Jugao
Doctors Academy graduate

UC academic preparation programs are paying off for students

The University of California's student academic preparation programs are making strong progress in helping educationally disadvantaged students prepare for college, according to a new report that evaluates the programs using a more rigorous methodology than ever before.

The programs are helping more students complete a college preparatory curriculum in high school, prepare for and pass the standardized tests required for college admission, pass the state's high school exit exam, and enroll in college and graduate, according to the report.

"California's continued success in the global economy depends largely on our ability to bring the next generation of students into higher education and give them the knowledge and skills to be energetic contributors to our state," said UC President Robert C. Dynes. "These programs make a vital contribution, and this report provides an important measure of accountability for the public's investment in the programs."

UC's Student Academic Preparation and Educational Partnerships programs reach more than 116,000 students at 746

K-12 public schools and 109 community colleges in California. The programs focus largely on students who are socioeconomically disadvantaged, would be the first in their families to attend college, and/or attend low-performing schools.

UC Merced's Center for Educational Partnerships in Fresno encompasses all student academic preparation and educational partnership programs for the campus. UC Merced currently serves 2,439 students in Fresno, Kern, Kings, Madera, Merced and Tulare counties through its UC Scholars Early Academic Outreach Program.

"UC Scholars is a great program for anyone who's interested in the UC system," said Jessica Miguel, a senior at Edison High School in Fresno. "It teaches you about the classes you need to take, how to succeed and stay on track to be eligible.

"It's really helpful because of the campus visits," she added. "The visits help you to decide which campus is good for you and see what college life is like."

Through its Parent Empowerment Program, UC Merced provided college-going information and support services to 527



The UC Scholars program aims to improve UC eligibility rates among Valley students.

families in the fall. About 300 families are being served this spring.

UC Davis reaches out to students in San Joaquin County through its School/University Partnerships program, and UC Santa Barbara runs an Early Academic Outreach Department in Kern County.

More information about the success of UC's academic preparation programs is available at: www.universityofcalifornia.edu/news/academicprep_report04-05.pdf ■

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