

# UC VALLEY CONNECTION

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

## QUOTEWORTHY

“...I gained a better understanding of the unique strengths and challenges of communities throughout the region that will help guide us as we develop future partnerships and programs.”

Steve Kang  
Chancellor  
UC Merced

## INSIDE

Tulare County UCCE newsletter offers advice for new parents	2
UC Merced to start telemedicine network	2
UC Merced offers summer courses in Fresno and Bakersfield	2
UC Davis helps Valley plan for the future	2
Health care consolidation delivers benefits	3
UC expands access with innovative program	4

UC Merced Chancellor Steve Kang meets with College of the Sequoias students in Visalia as part of his Valley listening tour.



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## UC Merced chancellor tours San Joaquin Valley

By Brandy Ramos Nikaido | UC Office of the President

UC Merced Chancellor Steve Kang recently covered more than 1,000 miles of the San Joaquin Valley, visiting eight cities in seven weeks as part of a listening tour to better acquaint himself with the region and increase awareness of and support for UC's 10th campus.

“This tour was an outstanding learning opportunity,” said Kang. “I shared exciting developments taking place at UC Merced and how we are contributing to the Valley. At the same time, I gained a better understanding of the unique strengths and challenges of communities throughout the region that will help guide us as we develop future partnerships and programs.”

Kang met with elected officials, educators, students, business and community leaders and the media in a series of meetings. His message: UC Merced represents a model university of the 21st century committed to

education and research, diversity, community building, economic development and preservation of the environment.

Fred Ruiz, UC Regent and chairman/ chief executive officer of Ruiz Foods in Dinuba, spent the day with Kang during the chancellor's visit to Visalia. At a luncheon hosted by the Tulare County Office of Education, Ruiz praised the chancellor for his genuine interest in making a difference in the Valley. Ruiz also encouraged educational leaders in Kings and Tulare counties to think creatively and innovatively to help the new chancellor build UC Merced.

In Fresno, Merced, Modesto and Visalia, Kang talked with students about their plans for the future, and shared with them the many educational opportunities available at UC Merced.

Katherine Flores, M.D., director of the UCSF Fresno Latino Center for Medical



## Tulare County UCCE newsletter offers advice for new parents

University of California Cooperative Extension recently completed a revision of Parent Express, a month-by-month newsletter for new mothers. The series includes 15 eight-page issues – two meant for expectant mothers with information on preparing for birth, one issue that focuses entirely on birth and then one per month for the first 12 months of the child's life. Each issue contains clear, concise information on baby health, safety, physical, emotional and cognitive development.

"There's a lot going on in that bundle of joy," said Cathi Lamp, the newsletter's co-author and nutrition, family and consumer sciences adviser for UC Cooperative Extension in Tulare County. "New parents from all walks of life seem to like it because it's not overwhelming. It has just the information you need for that month of life. You don't have to sit down and read a whole book."

Much of the child's developmental information is written in the first-person, with the baby explaining "how I grow," "how I talk," "how I understand" and "how I feel."

Each issue also offers advice to new parents for taking care of themselves.

The complete Parent Express series is available for \$10 at <http://anrcatalog.ucdavis.edu>. For more: (559) 685-3309 ext. 218, or [cillamp@ucdavis.edu](mailto:cillamp@ucdavis.edu).

## UC Merced to start telemedicine network

UC Merced's efforts to establish a medical school received a boost recently in the form of a \$225,000 seed grant from the California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley this spring. The campus will use the funds to start a telemedicine network, which will help improve access to healthcare in the underserved region and provide a fundamental building block for a medical school in the Valley.

Through the "San Joaquin Valley eHealth Network Project," the campus's initial aim is to establish eHealth Centers at four different Valley sites along with a network hub at UC Merced. Each eHealth center will be equipped to provide telemedicine patient services through videoconferencing and specialized communications and diagnostic equipment. The centers will also provide training for physicians, medical students and health professionals throughout the region.

Several organizations have expressed interest in partnering with UC Merced to develop the eHealth Center Network, including UC Davis, UCSF Fresno, the Central Valley Health Network; California Emerging Technology Fund, California Telemedicine and eHealth Center, AT&T, Great Valley Center, and United Cerebral Palsy of San Joaquin, Calaveras and Amador Counties.

UC Merced's eHealth project was one of 15 seed grants - totaling \$2.5 million - awarded to advance the work of the California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley.

## UC Merced offers summer session courses in Fresno and Bakersfield

Valley students who have been admitted to UC Merced or other UC campuses for fall 2007 may take UC Merced summer classes to get a head start on their college studies. UC Merced will offer courses on campus and through two-way, live videoconferencing at its educational centers in Fresno and Bakersfield. Classes start June 18. Registration is underway now.

UC Merced expects to offer more than 25 classes. Courses such as political science, psychology, sociology and foreign language classes, including Chinese, Japanese and Spanish, will be offered at the Fresno and Bakersfield centers provided classes meet the minimum enrollment requirements. Students enrolled in summer session at the Fresno and Bakersfield centers will see and participate in the on-campus courses as they are happening.

Students who attend other UC campuses, high school seniors with a letter of recommendation and anyone at least 18 years of age also may enroll.

Two to five units of UC credit are available for each course. Fees are \$221 per semester-unit for UC undergraduate students and are slightly higher for non-UC students. Campus-based fees apply and there is a non-refundable application fee of \$25 for all non-UC students.

For more: <http://summer-session.ucmerced.edu>, email [summeression@ucmerced.edu](mailto:summeression@ucmerced.edu) or call (209) 228-2736.

## UC Davis helps Valley plan for the future

The San Joaquin Valley Blueprint, a long-range planning process for the future of transportation and land use in the region, is getting a helping hand from UC Davis' Information Center for the Environment.

"We are transferring cutting-edge technology to the Valley where Councils of Government staff members and others will incorporate the technology and data to better plan for the future," said the Davis center's co-Director Mike McCoy.

The center will provide the eight-county San Joaquin Valley Councils of Government with environmental data, training, and help in developing geographic information systems and projections of future urbanization of Valley farmlands. The information that should emerge from this analysis will suggest how Valley communities can foster more efficient land-use patterns, which will help improve transportation mobility and reduce single-occupant vehicle trips, ensure there is an adequate supply of housing across all income levels, and make neighborhoods safer and more vibrant. This smart approach to land use can also protect valuable habitat, productive farmland and air quality, and contribute to a more efficient use of energy and natural resources.

The San Joaquin Valley Blueprint Planning Process is funded by the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District and the Business, Transportation & Housing Agency through the California Department of Transportation.

## CONTACT INFORMATION

UC ValleyConnection is published quarterly by the University of California, Office of the President, University Affairs, San Joaquin Valley office, UC Center, 550 E. Shaw Ave., Suite 212, Fresno, CA 93710, (559) 241-7510, fax (559) 241-7516. For more information, please e-mail the editor at [brandy.nikaido@ucop.edu](mailto:brandy.nikaido@ucop.edu) or call the number listed above.

# Health care consolidation delivers benefits

By Erin Kennedy | Community Medical Centers

The recent move of all acute care services from University Medical Center to Community Regional Medical Center in downtown Fresno brings together UCSF Fresno Medical Education Program faculty and staff with private physicians, the latest high-tech equipment, a new burn and Level 1 trauma facility and the state's largest emergency department.

The partnership between UCSF Fresno and Community Regional provides a number of benefits, according to Joan Voris, UCSF Fresno's associate dean.

"Being part of a regional medical center with a large, diverse population of patients provides excellent training opportunities, which in turn attracts more and better residents who will stay in the area after finishing their training, thus addressing the Valley's shortage of specialists," Voris said.

"Being connected to a large hospital with specialized services and technology will help UCSF Fresno also attract sub-specialty faculty to train residents and equally important, promote patient care," she added.

Within hours, the consolidation made a life and death difference for one Valley man.

Having a cardiac surgery team and operating room just steps away – rather than miles away – together with better high-tech scanning helped save the man who had his heart punctured, liver torn and five ribs broken in an early-morning car crash. The victim was the first trauma patient flown

into Community Regional after the Level 1 trauma designation and trauma staff – including UCSF Fresno faculty – moved over from University Medical Center.

The trauma team expertly treats such life-threatening injuries. But if the crash had happened the day before, the man would have been stabilized at University Medical Center first and then transferred to the regional medical center to patch his heart, said the doctors who worked on him.

"We would not have had the equipment to perform either of the surgeries we did at Community Regional hospital," explained Dr. Richard Gregory, assistant clinical professor

of surgery at UCSF Fresno and medical director of cardiac surgery at Community Regional and the Fresno Heart & Surgical Hospital.

UCSF Fresno faculty member and trauma surgeon Dr. Ricard Townsend agreed, "At Community Regional, there's specialized equipment and easy access to the subspecialty care that made a difference."

The April 16-18 move of emergency, trauma, burn, surgical, pediatric and intensive care services completed a decade-old promise made when private, nonprofit Community Medical Centers took over the county-run Valley Medical Center and renamed it University Medical Center. ■



Partnership between UCSF Fresno and Community Medical Centers saves lives and provides excellent training opportunities.

## Chancellor Kang tours valley from front page

Education and Research, was most impressed by Kang after she and students in the Doctors Academy at Fresno's Sunnyside High School met with him.

"Those of you who were admitted should seriously consider UC Merced," Flores told the students. "How many of you can say that the chancellor or president of the university to which you applied personally recruited you?"

Educators in Bakersfield welcomed Kang, and agreed to work collaboratively to increase the college-going rate among Valley students.

"We have a rich tradition in educa-

tion of working together," said Larry Reider, superintendent of Kern County schools. "I am happy to see UC Merced here, and I pledge on behalf of K-12 to help increase the college-going rate."

The chancellor's listening tour, from March 26 through May 3, included stops in Merced, Modesto, Fresno, Bakersfield, Lemoore, Hanford, Visalia and Stockton. The visits were planned as part of Chancellor Kang's first 100 days in office.

The UC Regents appointed Kang as chancellor on Jan. 17, 2007, and he took office on March 1, 2007. Prior to coming to the Merced campus, he was dean of the Baskin School of Engineering at UC Santa Cruz. ■

# UC expands access with innovative program

The University of California received a record number of applications for fall 2007 – nearly 111,000 freshman and transfer applications. This year, to continue expanding access for all qualified students, the 10-campus system is taking advantage of the capacity at UC Merced to offer students a unique opportunity called “Shared Experience.”

A limited-time systemwide transfer program, Shared Experience gives UC-eligible California residents who could not be accommodated at one or more of the campuses where they applied the option of starting coursework toward their bachelor’s degree at UC Merced – with a guarantee of admission after two years to the campus to which they originally applied.

Each UC campus has the option of making a Shared Experience offer to UC-eligible California residents. Four campuses – Berkeley, San Diego, Los Angeles and Irvine – have issued offers.

Just over 1,000 offers statewide are expected to be made in this first year. Participating students must agree to meet specific terms set by their destination campus about necessary

coursework and GPA requirements during their two years at Merced.

Students also may remain at UC Merced to complete their degree. In fact, campus administrators expect that many students who experience Merced’s outstanding undergraduate teaching and close-knit community will choose to stay.

Shared Experience is similar to a successful program that UC’s Santa Cruz and Berkeley campuses created in the 1980s. It also is very much like the “Coordinated Admission” program at the University of Texas – where students who apply but are not admitted to the flagship Austin campus may attend another UT campus for a year and earn the right to transfer.

Shared Experience takes advantage of UC’s systemwide enrollment capacity while also boosting UC Merced’s enrollment – and that allows the campus to hire more faculty and expand major offerings,



Limited-time program allows UC to accommodate more students by utilizing capacity at UC Merced.

which in turn will attract even more students in years to come.

For more: [www.universityofcalifornia.edu/admissions/sharedexperience](http://www.universityofcalifornia.edu/admissions/sharedexperience)

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Fresno, CA 93710

550 E. Shaw Ave., Suite 212

UC Center

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