Staff Convocation

During the Staff Convocation, Leland told the audience she will continue to use a variety of communication tools, including webcasts and town hall meetings, to keep people informed of important campus updates and provide ways to ask questions and provide feedback. The chancellor also gave a shout-out to remote staff members who made the trip to campus from satellite locations. Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs Charles Nies spoke briefly about the incoming class of students. Although official numbers will not be available until after the campus conducts its annual census in September, this year UC Merced will welcome its highest percentage of Merced County students, yet another measure of the university's successful outreach efforts in local communities. Staff Assembly President Pam Taylor provided a short overview of Staff Assembly, introduced its 2016-17 executive board and encouraged staff members to play a role shaping in the campus's future by getting involved with the group.

From left to right: Chancellor Dorothy Leland, Mort Peyvandi and Pam Taylor

Both convocations included segments that welcomed new faculty and staff members in attendance and. Staff Convocation included the announcement and presentation of 2016 Staff Excellence Awards to five staff members.

2020 Project
UC Merced’s ambitious plans for the second major phase of campus development, known as the 2020 Project, are moving rapidly ahead after receiving final approval this summer from the UC Board of Regents.

The project, the largest in the UC system, will nearly double the capacity of the campus by 2020 and support enrollment growth to 10,000 students by the 2021-22 academic year. Construction is scheduled to begin Oct. 14 with a groundbreaking ceremony hosted by Chancellor Dorothy Leland. UC President Janet Napolitano, members of the UC Board of Regents and numerous state and local officials are expected to attend the event, which will be open to the campus community and the public.

“This is a major step forward for UC Merced, the UC system and the growing numbers of talented students throughout California who want and deserve a UC education,” Leland said after the regents unanimously approved the project design and funding requirements July 21.

The project will add approximately 1.2 million gross square feet of teaching, research, residential and student-life facilities adjacent to the current campus, just south of Little Lake. Unlike traditional UC construction projects, it will be built as a single fast-track development by a single developer, Plenary Properties Merced (PPM), under a long-term contract that includes design, construction, partial financing, operation and maintenance of the facilities.

PPM’s creative design “blends beautifully with our existing campus, facilitates our multidisciplinary teaching and research methods and provides flexibility for future changes in building usage,” Leland said upon announcing the winning bidder in June.

Campus update contact: Pam Taylor, ptaylor@ucmerced.edu