



## UC Merced Campus Update Winter 2016

**Fresno Grizzlies Welcome Bobcats on UC Merced Night** - Staff members experienced an evening filled with entertainment, food and fireworks Aug. 26 at the Fresno Grizzlies' first ever UC Merced Night. Staff Assembly sweetened the event by offering 100 half-priced tickets to staff members. Before the baseball game started, Chancellor Dorothy Leland visited with the UC Merced contingent, offered hellos and posed for selfies before she threw the ceremonial first pitch.

**2020 Project Groundbreaking** - UC Merced broke ground Oct. 14 on the Merced 2020 Project — the largest expansion in campus history. UC Board of Regents Chair Monica Lozano, UC President Janet Napolitano, Chancellor Dorothy Leland along with others drove the symbolic first shovels into the ground. Also in attendance were Staff Advisor to the Regents LaWana Richmond of UC San Diego and Staff Advisor Designate Jason Valdry of UC Irvine. The groundbreaking marked the start of construction of an unprecedented \$1.3 billion public-private partnership approved by the UC Board of Regents.

**Poppies Galore Community Project** - Staff Assembly collaborated with a local artist on a community art project. Staff members were invited to put their creative flair on display by glazing ceramic poppies that will be permanently installed at Bob Hart Square in downtown Merced. A \$5 contribution to participate in the project paid for art supplies, and the remaining proceeds benefited the Valley Crisis Center and Room at the Inn.

**Wellness Program Discussions** - Staff Assembly is in discussions with the campus's Human Resources office on a proposed partnership to co-manage a campus Wellness program. One option being considered includes Staff Assembly developing a committee of representatives that would have some authority and autonomy over the management of the program with Human Resources providing oversight. Staff Assembly is in the process of gauging staff members regarding moving forward with the proposal.

**Halloween Decorating contest** - Staff Assembly sponsored a "spirited" Halloween Decorating Contest on with eight departments competing for bragging rights and a pizza party. The Academic Personnel Office took home the top prize. Moreover, the event provided an opportunity for Staff Assembly to engage with staff members

**Staff Assembly Scholarship Winners** - This year, the Staff Assembly Scholarship for Employees' Dependent Children was awarded to Kaitlyn Cacabelos and Tyler Silveira. Cacabelos, a third-year management and business economics major, is the daughter of Sara White, who works in Development and Alumni Relations. Silveira, a fourth-year computer science and engineering major, is the stepson of Lisa Silveira, who works for the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships. The Staff Assembly scholarship fund is almost entirely supported by the donations of UC Merced employees.

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