



**Campus Update**  
**September 2014**

**Networking and Philanthropic Series (NPS)**

UC Merced staff members recently got a chance to bond with colleagues and learn about campus landmarks and places of interest -- all while helping a local emergency shelter.

Staff Assembly and the Office of the Chancellor co-sponsored "Where in the World is Rufus," a scavenger hunt that was part of the new Networking and Public Service series (NPS). Eleven teams from units across the campus participated. Each team received clues that took it to different campus locations

Volunteers positioned at each location provided interesting facts about the site, and the final destination for all teams was the Beginnings sculpture. Prizes were awarded to teams who had the quickest and slowest finish times and were the most spirited. *"It was an opportunity for people to participate in a fun team-building activity with their co-workers, learn some interesting things about the campus and provide much-needed support to a local agency."*

Participants were asked to bring travel-sized toiletries that were later donated to Valley Crisis Center, a domestic violence shelter that serves Merced.

**Staff Appreciation Week 2014**

Staff Appreciation Week was held May 19-23. The theme was "Super Staff." The festivities included a Farmers Market, Continental Breakfast, Vote for Your Favorite Critter, Ice Cream Social, Super Kickball tournament, tours of the Central Plant and Tunnel, Science & Engineering Building 2 tour, and Barn Hike. The week ended with a Promise Campaign Kayak Race between our Provost, Dean of Engineering, Dean of SSHA, Dean of Natural Sciences, VC of Research and VC of Development & Alumni Relations, after the race there was a picnic hosted by Chancellor Leland.

**Career Advancement Mentorship Program (CAMP)**

UC Merced HR, in consultation with Staff Assembly, was launched on June 24<sup>th</sup>. There are 18 mentors and many more mentee's. It is just getting started and looks to be a great success. The 12 month course pair's interested staff mentors and mentees for monthly programmatic events mixed with one on one mentoring through the year to encourage professional and personal development on campus.

**Staff Excellence Awards**

Under the newly developed award categories of Outstanding Customer Service and Job Performance, Creativity, Teamwork, Organizational/Leadership Abilities & Community Involvement and Public Service we gave out 4 awards this year.

**Town Hall Meeting**

Our next Town Hall Meeting is scheduled for August 21. It will focus specifically on our campus' new compensation philosophy and strategy. Chancellor Leland and Vice Chancellor for Business and Administrative Services, Michael Reese, will share information on this topic. Chancellor Leland has approved the adoption of a three-year strategy for implementing a new compensation policy for UC Merced.

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