



Campus Update June 2014

Commencement

UC Merced will be celebrating its ninth commencement on May 17th and 18th, with roughly 1,100 graduates becoming newly minted UCM alumni, bringing the currently alumni total to 4,500 individuals.

Staff Appreciation Week

Staff Appreciation week kicks off on May 19th to celebrate the “Super Staff” of UC Merced. Activities during the week include a Farmers’ Market, a tour of the newly dedicated Vernal Pools Natural Reserve, a tour of the almost finished Science & Engineering Building II, a staff kickball tournament, ice cream socials, breakfasts, and a kayak race in the on campus lake between the Provost, the Deans, and VC of Development and Alumni Relations. We conclude the week with a campus wide picnic lunch with the awarding of this year’s Staff Excellence Awards.

Staff Excellence Awards

This year, UC Merced will be awarding four awards for excellence in the areas of: Job Performance and Customer Service; Creativity; Teamwork; and Organization and Teamwork. This year is the first for a new category system and it seems to have been a success, with nearly 25 nominations received from staff.

Staff Assembly Elections

Staff Assembly elections will be held at the end of May, with 6 candidates for 5 open positions. All positions currently have a candidate with two vying for the position of Program, Events, and Outreach. The new board members for FY 14-15 will be announced before the June CUCSA meeting.

CAMP Mentorship Program

The previously mentioned CAMP Mentorship Program has begun accepting nominations for the first class of mentors and mentees. The Program is the first step in addressing critical needs as identified in both the UC Merced’s Climate Survey and our Engagement Survey. VC Michael Reese is the Executive Sponsor of this program at UC Merced.

March Town Hall

Senior administration staff, including the Chancellor and Provost, participated in a town hall open to all staff, with the option to remotely view the event available. Topics discussed included the campus’s academic focusing plan, progress on the 2020 project, mentorship programs, telecommuting, and ongoing work on the compensation philosophies.

NPS

The first event of the new Networking and Public Service Series was a huge success, with 10 teams participating in the “Where is Rufus Bobcat?” scavenger hunt across main campus. Teams of staff competed for the prize of bragging rights in a wide ranging scavenger hunt that had them trekking all across campus. Teams “purchased” entry into the competition with travel sized toiletries that were donated to a local crisis shelter.

Chancellor and VC Meetings

Staff Assembly Leadership individually met with Chancellor Leland and Vice Chancellor Reese to discuss issues of concern to staff including campus compensation philosophy, equity adjustments, merit increases, staff mentorship programs, CUCSA developments, and the status of executive searches. The meetings went well and we will be continuing these quarterly meetings going forward.

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