



## UC MERCED CAMPUS REPORT FOR CUCSA – February 2005

### UC Merced Staff Assembly

It is envisioned that a UC Merced Staff Assembly will be formed prior to opening of the campus in Fall 2005. The Staff Assembly would be officially recognized by the Office of the Chancellor as an independent advisory body to the University Administration on issues of concern to staff. The purpose of the Staff Assembly would include:

- promotion of effective communication between campus employees;
- participation in decision-making on issues and matters of interest to staff; and
- fostering of professional contacts and mentoring among staff.

It is also envisioned that the Staff Assembly would recognize and celebrate the rich diversity of backgrounds and contributions that staff offer in support of the University's Mission, and to encourage professional growth and advancement. The UC Merced Staff Assembly would not function as a collective bargaining unit.

If you have interest in helping to form the first UC Merced Staff Assembly, please contact John White, Sonia Johnston, or Thea Vicari. These individuals are or have been active members of CUCSA, the Council of UC Staff Assemblies.

### 9,000 Students Apply for Admission in UC Merced's Opening Year

More than 9,000 students have applied to the University of California, Merced for admission to undergraduate and graduate programs in fall 2005, according to preliminary numbers released on an. 19, 2005. For the opening year, projections have called for UC Merced to enroll 1,000 students. Initial results show strong interest from San Joaquin Valley students and many more applicants than expected from other parts of California.

"We are thrilled with this response from students and pleased to say the number of applicants has even exceeded our expectations," says Chancellor Carol Tomlinson-Keasey. "These results are a clear validation of the UC Regents' decision in 1988 to plan for a new UC campus in the San Joaquin Valley. The student response also is a tribute to the efforts of so many people in this community and throughout the state who have supported the development of UC Merced over the years."

Based on preliminary reports, UC Merced's first undergraduate application period has resulted in approximately 8,000 applications for freshman admission. In addition, the campus has received 900 applications for transfer admission and 170 applications for graduate study for the 2005-06 academic year.

"It is exciting to see such strong interest among California students in the new opportunities at UC Merced," says UC President Robert C. Dynes. "The campus clearly is drawing applicants not only from its home base in the San Joaquin Valley, but from communities across the state of California. With these applications, the University of California's 10th campus has taken another dramatic step from dream to reality."

According to initial calculations, UC Merced's applicant pool for fall 2005 includes approximately 1,100 students from the San Joaquin Valley, defined as the region between Bakersfield and Stockton along with the Sierra foothill communities.

"With these initial numbers we know that valley students definitely are interested in UC Merced, and we anticipate that a higher percentage of these applicants will likely enroll," Director of Admissions Encarnación Ruíz says. "Ideally, we want the valley to be well represented in UC Merced's student population."

Traditionally, San Joaquin Valley students have enrolled at UC campuses at about half the rate of the state average. In recent years, however, the number of regional students applying to the UC system has increased steadily.

Last year, for example, about 3,000 students from the valley applied to UC's eight general education campuses for freshman admission. This year, with the addition of UC Merced, preliminary statistics indicate that the number has grown to approximately 3,500 applications from the region. The presence of UC Merced in the heart of the region and the impact of campus academic preparation programs has contributed to this increase.

After completing the application review process, the UC Merced Office of Admissions will begin to notify students of their admission decisions. Freshman applicants will receive notification of their admission decision by March 31, 2005, while transfer applicants can expect to learn their admission decision no later than April 30, 2005.

The preliminary numbers also indicate that UC Merced has strong appeal for students statewide. A notable response has come from the San Francisco Bay Area, with nearly 2,500 applications, and Los Angeles, with about 2,600 applications.

Of the freshman applicants, most applied to one of nine undergraduate degree programs, with interest spread among programs offered through the Schools of Engineering; Natural Sciences; and Social Sciences, Humanities and Arts. Other prospective freshmen applied to one of the three schools or to the campus at large with an undeclared major.