



UC MERCED CAMPUS REPORT FOR CUCSA – March 2006

Preliminary Fall 2006 Application Data Released

According to preliminary reports, UC Merced has received slightly more applications for Fall 2006 admission than were recorded at this time last year. Overall, more than 8,900 freshman, transfer and graduate student applications have been submitted, representing an 8 percent increase over the opening-year numbers.

The preliminary undergraduate applicant pool includes 1,550 Central Valley students, amounting to nearly 18 percent of the total and an almost 8 percent increase over Fall 2005 applications. Susan Wilbur, UC's director of undergraduate admissions, points to the presence and academic preparation efforts of UC Merced as a significant force behind the increasing number of Central Valley students applying for freshman admission to the UC system as a whole.

While subject to change as additional applications are processed, this preliminary data does indicate that UC Merced is continuing to attract the interest of students from throughout the state, ethnically diverse students and first-generation college students. Among freshman applicants, 28 percent identify themselves as members of underrepresented ethnic groups (African American, American Indian, Chicano and Latino) and 46 percent self-identify as first-generation college students.

UC Merced's admissions offices are currently reviewing applications. On-time freshman applicants should be notified of their admissions decision by the end of March, on-time transfer applicants will be notified by the end of April and prospective graduate students should get the news by the close of February.

UC Student Regents Tour UC Merced Campus and Advertise for Successor

Student Regents Adam Rosenthal and Maria Ledesma visited UC Merced on February 1 as part of their tour of the 10-campus system. It was the first visit for the two since the campus' grand opening celebrations in September.

Rosenthal, a law student at UC Davis, and Ledesma, a graduate student in education at UCLA, were treated to a tour of campus buildings in the morning before beginning a series of meetings

with faculty, staff and students. Both expressed wonder at how far UC Merced has come in just a few months.

“More attention and publicity,” was Rosenthal’s answer when asked what he would recommend to the Regents when reporting on UC Merced. “It’s astonishing what you’ve done here, and I think the system needs to recognize that.”

“You really can’t compare UC Merced with any of the other campuses,” Ledesma added. “It is its own, and that’s a good thing.”

The main reason for their visit, however, was to advertise their positions, which will be open next year. At the end of their day, they met with UC Merced students interested in becoming student regents before the pair moved on to their next campus visit at UC Berkeley.

Governor Cites UC Merced in Press Club Speech

In remarks presented at the Sacramento Press Club on January 24, 2006, Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger included an acknowledgment of UC Merced as an "extraordinary accomplishment." Excerpts of his speech that relate to the campus are reprinted below.

"...Let me talk a little bit about one example that should inspire us all to great heights; the new UC campus at Merced, which started under Governor Pete Wilson. The groundbreaking was done under Governor Gray Davis, and it was actually opened last fall under my administration.

For years UC's 10th campus was little more than just a dream. Students who lived in the Merced area had to actually leave to take their college classes. Historically, the region's economy lagged behind much of the rest of the state. When the campus opened with 1,000 students it was the realization of a vision come true. Our public investment has been leveraging and drawing in private funds, such as the \$11 million Packard Foundation Grant to buy 2,000 acres for the campus and to preserve another 5,700 acres for open space. Hundreds of millions of dollars in bonds were sold. The local economy has been infused with money and with jobs. Business is up all over town. College students now can stay in the region and get great education. By buildout in 2030, this will be a thriving, beautiful and environmentally advanced campus, an economic and cultural engine for a part of the state that often felt overlooked and neglected.

This, my friends, is an extraordinary accomplishment. Several governors and hundreds of legislators all worked together to make this happen. It is but one example of what we can and must achieve to secure California's future. It is but one example of what vision and courage can do for our state and for our people. ..."