



UC MERCED CAMPUS REPORT FOR CUCSA – December 2005

UC President Meets Faculty, Staff, Students of UC Merced

President Robert C. Dynes visited UC Merced on Nov. 9 as a main stop on his tour of the San Joaquin Valley, and the campus community made sure he was warmly welcomed with a wealth of information about the campus.

After a morning spent in legislative hearing with California Senators Jackie Speier and Jeff Denham, Dynes enjoyed presentations by several faculty members. Dean Maria Pallavicini updated him on plans for a future school of medicine at the 10th UC campus. Professors Sam Traina, Roger Bales and Tom Harmon spoke about hydrology research and UC Merced's partnership with the National Parks Service. Dean Jeff Wright and Professor Roland Winston presented information on the Energy Institute and demonstrated a solar concentrator design.

"I was impressed with that your professors are doing in their research," Dynes later told a group of students. "I hope you are all seeking out their expertise as you pursue your studies."

Dynes met in the early afternoon with a group of UC Merced students, who articulated some concerns along with what has been satisfying about being part of the founding class at the newest UC campus. Issues discussed included breadth of course offerings and transportation concerns.

Another component of Dynes' visit to UC Merced was a meeting with several staff members to discuss their concerns. At the meeting, facilitated by John White, the group posed questions about succession planning and workforce evolution, staff development and professional training, career ladders and job access across the UC system, staff compensation, sustaining UC Merced's operating budget, and the status and priority of academic preparation efforts.

"A number of staff members indicated after the meeting that they would be interested in forming a UC Merced staff assembly," said White. This would help UC Merced staff members maintain a continuous dialogue on these kinds of issues with UCOP and with each other."

White notes that UC Merced will be hosting the Council of UC Staff Assemblies (CUCSA) next March, and that current CUCSA delegates from UC Merced are Sonia Johnston and Stephanie Peterson.

Campus Census Provides Updated Profile of Inaugural Class

Thirty-Eight Percent of First Students Hail from the Central Valley

The new University of California campus in Merced, which opened Sept. 5, has completed its first campus census now that students have finished the process of registration of classes.

"With the census in hand, we have a more complete picture of our inaugural class," said David B. Ashley, UC Merced Executive Vice Chancellor and Provost. "The 875 students who are enrolled fully reflect the state's diversity in terms of geographic regions, ethnicity and socioeconomic background. Seeing the high-caliber students from diverse backgrounds who have chosen UC Merced as their final choice for obtaining their education provides a great sense of satisfaction."

The following characteristics of students who have enrolled provide a snapshot of UC Merced's inaugural class:

- 38 percent are originally from the Central Valley, 27 percent from the San Francisco Bay Area and 31 percent from Southern California.
- The gender mix is evenly split, 50-50.
- 31 percent self-report as coming from underrepresented ethnic or racial groups (e.g. African Americans, American Indians and Latinos).
- 49 percent identify themselves as first-generation college students.
- 17 percent self-identify as first-generation college students who also come from families earning less than \$30,000 annually.
- 80 percent applied for and received financial aid and 64 percent of those students qualified for need-based financial assistance.