



## **Campus Update December 2006 UCR Staff Assembly**

### **Campus Climate Workgroups**

The Chancellor touted respondents' positive feedback on individual commitment, co-workers, and job satisfaction per the (Wonderlic) staff climate survey. To address concerns, she established a Staff Climate Survey Steering Committee for reviewing needs and making recommendations (to her and the Executive Vice Chancellor/Provost) to improve the work environment. As its charge, the Committee earmarked endemic workgroups - Communication, Recognition, and Career Opportunities - chaired by the vice chancellors. To ensure participation from Staff Assembly, the Vice Chancellor of Administration, under whose purview the Committee falls, obliged the Assembly's request to develop a process for nominating representatives to serve on the workgroups. Part and parcel the annual strategic planning process, the groups convened for the first time in mid-November to get acquainted and discuss workload and directions.

### **New Child Development Center**

The demand for child care among students, faculty, and staff has exacerbated the University's available capacity. The typical waiting period for a parent seeking to admit offspring is more than two years, with in excess of 300 children competing for its 145 spaces. To lessen the waiting period and accommodate more children, the University has plans to increase care capacity by 144 spaces for children aged two months to five years. The University's goal is to open a new wing on the existing Child Development Center by fall of 2008.

### **Staff Assembly Fall Update**

The Staff Assembly experienced increased visibility during the fall term. The Chancellor appointed a liaison to attend meetings as a non-voting member, while the Interim Director of Executive Searches, on behalf of the Executive Vice Chancellor/Provost, sought the Assembly to recommend members for dean searches. To encourage a greater voice, the Assembly forwarded Next Step (a career development program designed to give staff an opportunity to gain entry-level office skills for administrative support positions) by adding an internship component, sponsored by the Vice Chancellor of Administration, for the coming summer; closed the sale of hundreds of entertainment (coupon) books, and catapulted the Holiday Coin Drive to help alleviate hunger during the holidays.

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