



UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, MERCED

Heidi Petersen
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Office of Governmental Relations

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December 11, 2007

The Honorable William O'Brien
Chairman
Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors
1010 10th St, Suite 6500
Modesto, California 95354

Dear Chairman O'Brien:

As you know, UC Merced has been planning for the establishment of a new medical school for a couple of years now. We have been meeting with groups and individuals all over the region to educate them on this important health care need. Over that period, we have received tremendous support.

Continuing on our efforts, and on behalf of Chancellor Kang, I would like to request that the Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors follow-up on a resolution asking the UC Board of Regents to support our efforts to bring a medical school to the San Joaquin Valley. You might recall that a similar resolution was passed by the San Joaquin Valley Regional Association of California Counties on April 20, 2006.

UC Merced will be appearing before the UC Board of Regents in early 2008 seeking approval to continue planning for a medical school in our region. We are asking each county board from San Joaquin to Kern respectively to individually endorse this effort through a Board Resolution. I have attached a revised copy of the resolution from the San Joaquin Valley Regional Association of California Counties for your review and revision, as needed. Please note we recently amended the opening language/text to reflect our current efforts.

We appreciate Stanislaus County's continued support of UC Merced. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions at hpetersen@ucmerced.edu.

Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Heidi Petersen
Local Government and Community Relations Representative

Enclosure

Cc: Supervisor Thomas Mayfield
Supervisor Jeff Grover
Supervisor Dick Monteith
Supervisor Jim DeMartini
County Executive Officer Richard Robinson

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
2007 DEC 14 2:51 PM

RESOLUTION

BEFORE THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
OF THE COUNTY OF STANISLAUS, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

To develop a University of California School of Medicine in the Valley with a mission to advance the health and well-being of the public, with a focus on the Valley.

WHEREAS, assessments of California's health care work force point to a shortage of up to 17,000 physicians in the State of California by 2015; and

WHEREAS, the San Joaquin Valley currently has 24 percent fewer primary care physicians and approximately 50 percent fewer specialists per capita than the rest of California as a whole; and

WHEREAS, the Valley, which is already medically underserved, will be disproportionately impacted by a statewide shortage of physicians; and

WHEREAS, the Valley's growing population and high incidence of health problems point to an overwhelming need to address access to health care in the region; and

WHEREAS, the Valley loses millions of dollars from the economy each year as local residents with health insurance coverage seek medical care outside of the region; and

WHEREAS, one of UC Merced's goals is to be a leader in a health care alliance aimed at improving the well being of San Joaquin Valley residents; and

WHEREAS, an expert task force charged with beginning planning for UC health sciences and medical education in the San Joaquin Valley recommends a model that leverages existing health care resources in the Valley, thereby bypassing the \$2-4 million per bed price tag associated with constructing a new and university-owned teaching hospital; and

WHEREAS, the recommended model for medical education at UC Merced trains students at clinical sites throughout the region; and

WHEREAS, the recommended model for medical education at UC Merced aims to increase the number of health care professionals practicing in the Valley, particularly those that are competent in multi-cultural medicine; and

WHEREAS, a University of California school of medicine in the Valley will raise the level of care across the Valley through access to the latest advances and treatments associated with UC health sciences research programs, change perceptions about health care quality, keep health care dollars in the region and serve as an economic engine for the San Joaquin Valley; and

WHEREAS, the San Joaquin Valley must be united in its efforts to develop a stellar medical education program that serves the health needs of its residents;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: by the **Board of Supervisors for the County of Stanislaus**, to strongly encourage the University of California, Board of Regents to support UC Merced's efforts to plan and establish a School of Medicine in the San Joaquin Valley. In addition to training physicians to meet regional and state needs, a UC Merced School of Medicine will extend biomedical and environmental sciences research programs throughout the regions, which will help improve the economic well being of the Valley and the quality of life of its diverse residents.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: for the UC Board of Regents to support the development of a University of California School of Medicine within a short time period, recognizing that physician training is completed in six to eight years after entry into medical school.

I, RICHARD ROBINSON, Clerk of the Board of Supervisors of the County of Stanislaus, do hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was regularly introduced, passed and adopted by said Board at a regular meeting thereof held on _____ day of January, 2008 by the following vote:

SUPERVISORS:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

WITNESS my hand and the Seal of this Board this _____ day of January, 2008.

RICHARD ROBINSON, CLERK

By: _____
Deputy