



**A RESOLUTION OF THE  
CALIFORNIA PARTNERSHIP FOR THE SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY  
IN SUPPORT OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF UC MERCED'S MEDICAL SCHOOL**

WHEREAS, the University of California, Merced is planning a medical school, founded on a community based distributive model of medical education in order to best serve the needs of the San Joaquin Valley and focus teaching and research on the community health needs of the region.

WHEREAS, the UC Merced Medical School will address the critical projected physician shortage and combat serious health-related illnesses that plague the San Joaquin Valley and will also expand higher education opportunities in the San Joaquin Valley.

WHEREAS, UC Merced retained the services of the Washington Advisory Group (WAG) to provide recommendations on the planning process for the medical school, and WAG recommends a delay of UC Merced's current plan due to the recent economic downturn in the State of California and the nation as a whole.

WHEREAS, WAG states that "the commitment to establish an independent UCM medical school is undiminished," and instead recommends the development of a three phase plan:

**Phase I:** Development of a "Biomedical Education Track" for an undergraduate pre-med program at UC Merced, to be developed as early as 2010.

**Phase II:** Development of a UC Davis/ UC Merced program for a "branch medical school" of UC Davis, to be developed as early as 2012.

**Phase III:** A fully independent UC Merced Medical School, with a distributive model program, to be developed no later than 2020.

WHEREAS, Mark Yudof, President of the University of California, endorsed the WAG report in his remarks before the University of California Board of Regents on February 4, 2009, pledging to work with UC Merced on the development of the plan.

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 the University of California's

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California Partnership for the  
San Joaquin Valley

Health Sciences Advisory Council recommended a 34 percent increase in MD student enrollments between 2005 and 2020. The Council also recognized that medical education programs need to be developed in the San Joaquin Valley and the Inland Empire, where projected population growth rates are twice that of the rest of the state.

WHEREAS, the San Joaquin Valley has historically been an underserved region in terms of recruiting and retaining medical professionals and has 24 percent fewer physicians and 50 percent fewer specialists than the rest of the state and UC Merced's Medical School will be the single most important action that can be taken to address this shortage.

WHEREAS, it will take years to plan for a quality medical school, and many more years before the first medical school class is placed into residency, so it is important to act now in order to avoid an even more serious health care crisis in the San Joaquin Valley.

WHEREAS, the Valley Coalition for UC Merced's Medical School is comprised of elected officials, cities and counties, medical professionals, hospitals and organizations throughout the nine county region (San Joaquin, Stanislaus, Merced, Mariposa, Madera, Fresno, Tulare, Kings and Kern counties) of the San Joaquin Valley whose purpose is to support the development of the medical school and to provide recommendations as to how to best develop a UC quality program that meets the needs of the San Joaquin Valley.

WHEREAS, Boards of Supervisors from the nine county region of the San Joaquin Valley have adopted resolutions in support of the development of the medical school.

WHEREAS, the Valley Coalition for UC Merced's Medical School was awarded a \$147,000 grant from the California Endowment to engage in outreach activities in the nine county region of the San Joaquin Valley in order to obtain input from these communities and make recommendations to the University of California as to how to best develop a UC quality program that meets the needs of the San Joaquin Valley.

WHEREAS, the Valley Coalition for UC Merced's Medical School on February 19, 2009 adopted a resolution in support of the continued planning of UC Merced's Medical School and in support of the recommendations contained in the WAG report, with specific changes.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley strongly supports the continued planning of UC Merced's Medical School;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley supports the Valley Coalition for UC Merced's Medical School's outreach efforts and will coordinate with and assist the Coalition in such outreach, as appropriate;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley supports in concept the recommendations contained in the WAG report and calls upon the



Board of Regents of the University of California, the University of California Office of the President, and UC Merced officials to:

- 1) Establish Phase III of the program by 2015 in order to meet the projected physician short fall of the state and the underserved medical needs of the San Joaquin Valley;
- 2) Incorporate medical education and clinical education at UCSF-Fresno and other locations in the San Joaquin Valley, as appropriate, during Phase II of the program;
- 3) Work with the Central Valley Higher Education Consortium to establish a fully articulated undergraduate health sciences program with the community colleges of the San Joaquin Valley;
- 4) Ensure that research is a key component of the medical school;
- 5) Provide funding for the development of the three-phase program, with the modified timeline in Phase III, as recommended in this resolution.

Fritz Grupe, Deputy Chair