



FACT SHEET

UC Merced Medical School

- The State of California faces a major health care crisis— by 2015 the state will have a shortage of 17,000 physicians.
- The University of California’s Health Sciences Advisory Council recommended a 34% increase in MD student enrollments between 2005 and 2020.
- The population projected growth rates in the valley are twice that of the rest of the state.
- SJ Valley has 31 percent fewer primary physicians and 51 percent fewer specialists than the rest of the state.
- UC Merced Medical School will expand higher education opportunities in the San Joaquin Valley as well as address the critical projected physician shortage and combat serious health-related illnesses that plague the SJ Valley, such as asthma, diabetes and obesity.
- Strong evidence suggests that new physicians chose to settle into practice near where they train, so establishment of a medical school in the Valley would produce immediate benefits for the region.
- Each year over \$845 million in health care dollars leave the Valley to other areas of the state where our residents seek the quality health care they deserve. Establishing a medical school in the Valley would help to reverse the flow of medical dollars, and would ultimately recapture those funds for our local economy.
- **Specific Proposal- Distributive Model:** The medical school will be founded on a community based distributed model of medical education, utilizing current medical facilities in the Valley, as well as the resources of UC San Francisco and UC Davis. This is the most cost effective and fastest way to start up a new medical school. The first two years of medical education will be on the UC Merced campus, and the second two years of medical education will be in clinical settings in Valley medical facilities.

- One of the goals of the medical school is to train physicians who are culturally competent and who represent the diversity of the state and region. The focus of the medical training will be the elimination of health disparities in the San Joaquin Valley.
- As a public institution, the University of California has an obligation to serve all parts of the state equally. California's future depends on the success of the Valley. We cannot afford to leave one area of the state behind. A medical school at UC Merced will offer many health, education and economic benefits to the Valley and to the state.
- In addition to addressing the critical shortage of physicians in the Valley and improving the health status of residents, a UC Merced School of Medicine will have a positive economic, impact on the region, will expand education opportunity for community members, extend the campus' research programs throughout the Valley and all of the benefits associated with such research as evidenced in communities with existing UC medical schools.
- It takes 7-10 years to produce practicing physicians. Steps must be taken now to plan and develop a medical school in the Valley.

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