



## **VALLEY COALITION FOR UC MERCED MEDICAL SCHOOL MISSION STATEMENT**

The goal of the Valley Coalition for UC Merced Medical School is to support the development of UC Merced's Medical School. UC Merced's Medical School will build upon UC Merced's strong health sciences research base, will leverage partnerships with UC Davis and UC San Francisco and will utilize existing healthcare facilities in the Valley for clinical training of culturally competent physicians.

The Coalition is comprised of health care officials, business and community leaders and elected officials throughout the San Joaquin Valley who are dedicated to ensuring that the medical school will meet the diverse needs of the entire Valley. The Coalition is committed to supporting UC Merced in its efforts to establish a School of Medicine in the San Joaquin Valley that will serve the region by increasing the number of quality and culturally competent physicians practicing in the area, expanding higher education opportunities for Valley students and serving as an economic engine.

The Coalition supports the development of UC Merced's Medical School through community outreach and advocacy efforts, focusing primarily on the following:

- Working with state elected officials to secure state funding;
- Working with members of Congress to secure federal appropriations and grants;
- Engaging in outreach and communications activities in order to expand the support base for the medical school;
- Advocating for the medical school with the goal of securing UC Regents' endorsement and approval.

The Coalition will also:

- Provide UC Merced with community insight and guidance regarding matters related to developing support for the medical school;
- Advise UC Merced on community, government, medical and media relations related to the medical school planning efforts;
- Provide input to the UC Office of the President, the UC Board of Regents and UC Merced regarding suggestions as to how to develop a medical school that meets the diverse needs of the region.

The Coalition is chaired by Bill Lyons, Jr., of Modesto, former Secretary of the California Department of Food and Agriculture, and Bryn Forhan, a Fresno businesswoman and community leader.