

REMARKS TO SUPPORTERS OF UC MERCED

President Robert C. Dynes

December 9, 2003

Since I became President, the thing that has struck me the most, whether meeting with faculty and students or with local business leaders, is the staggering impact of UC on the State of California. UC has played a key role in almost every emerging field in California's economy – and, in fact, in almost every aspect of our daily lives as Californians.

Here in the Valley, UC has contributed to the people and to the local economy through a wide variety of educational, health care and agricultural programs. We can see that impact all around us:

Much of the success of California's \$27 billion agricultural industry traces back to UC; the University trains many of the state's vintners and certifies over 95% of wine grapes.

UC agricultural extension offices provide cutting-edge research and hands-on assistance to local ranchers and growers throughout the Central Valley's counties.

Fully 60% of California doctors are trained by UC, and our medical centers not only teach the doctors of tomorrow, but care for a disproportionate share of the state's poor. UCSF Fresno, in fact, has developed a model for training doctors and providing health services through "telemedicine" in rural areas; UCSF Fresno has now graduated more than 2,000 physicians, and at least half of them stay in the Central Valley to practice.

But a big part of the University's impact also is UC Merced. We need this campus for the Valley's educational and economic progress, and to meet our obligations to the students of the entire state ten years out and beyond. Through UC Merced, we want to preserve and expand the extraordinary impacts of the University of California, and we need the state's support to do it.

In these difficult times, we need your help more than ever. I know you understand the impact of UC, but I need you to help me convince all Californians that UC is a key part of why the state has always been an economic leader and a shining model to the rest of the nation – a testament to the success of innovation, diversity, entrepreneurship and risk-taking.