

help. Summer Bridge, which only has 100 students, should also be expanded. High school students needed to be acclimated to the college work load. UCM also needed more resources for existing programs. Mr. Nies added that more resources were needed to implement a two-year residential requirement. A UCLA study on attrition at UC Merced found that a two-year residential requirement would dramatically increase retention rates. Ms. Caradonna noted that 90 percent of UCM students received financial aid, and certain resources could offset their aid package. First-generation students did not have necessarily have the means to pay the balance of their tuition. She feared that the culture would change as UC Merced grows and warned against elitism as the graduation cap is closed.

Committee Chair Leib asked Ms. Norio how she, a resident of Southern California, came to choose UC Merced. Ms. Norio replied that she did not think she had the resources to attend UC. She chose UC Merced because she, as a Hispanic, first-generation student who received financial aid, was part of a majority on campus. While UCM needed more resources to improve, she did not wish to see the campus' unique culture change.

Ms. Largo shared that she represented 72 CEP staff members serving the San Joaquin Valley (SJV) on behalf of UC Merced. CEP staff worked with K-12 school districts to address the lack of a college-going culture in the SJV. It was CEP's mission to ensure that students in the program had as many postsecondary choices as possible and to help students transition seamlessly to CCC, CSU, or UC. CEP's limited resources prevented it from reaching every community in the SJV, but the program has secured \$28 million in grants. CEP did evaluate and analyze the transcript process to identify what at the K-12 level blocked the seamless transition to college. The Office of the President has recently provided funding for CEP to support community college students. An emphasis on transparency, accountability, and student outcomes was needed in order to address student needs in real time. Former Associate Vice Chancellor Jorge Aguilar saw the importance of data and decided to invest in a data analysis and evaluation unit at CEP's inception. Data would help districts make informed decisions in real time. Guidance counselors often spent more time on students' social and emotional needs than on their postsecondary educational needs. CEP aimed to make itself redundant, but there was still a need for building relationships at the K-12 level in order to bring about systemic change.

3. **UC MERCED ENGAGEMENT IN THE CENTRAL VALLEY**

[Background material was provided to Regents in advance of the meeting, and a copy is on file in the Office of the Secretary and Chief of Staff.]

UC Merced Executive Vice Chancellor and Provost Gregg Camfield recalled that his first academic appointment was at an Ivy League university and stated his belief that UC Merced students were better. In his view, UC Merced students were determined, resilient, and connected, and they shared what they learned with their communities. He felt honored to work with and support these students.

Mr. Camfield remarked that students in research universities approach knowledge differently and use it to better the world, and UC Merced wishes that all of its students

share those attributes regardless of whether they become researchers or not. Research universities served the public good because they addressed issues of great concern to the public. There were many examples of how UCM has incorporated undergraduates into research for the public good. The campus had to shift expectations of what research was.

Associate Professor of Anthropology and Vice Chair of the Merced Division of the Academic Senate Robin DeLugan stated that, in September 2003, then Chancellor Carol Tomlinson-Keasey signed the UC Merced Community Pledge to serve Merced, Merced County, and the greater San Joaquin Valley. In January 2015, the Carnegie Foundation granted UCM its prestigious community engagement classification. The campus has also provided undergraduate students research opportunities with the outside community. Ms. DeLugan shared one example in which John Flores, UCM student, conducted research for the Merced Youth Fund and presented findings to the Merced City Council. Mr. Flores then led a team that researched city youth councils for the City of Merced. Students developed and conducted a telephone-based survey, learning about qualitative research design, data collection and analysis, ethics, and other concepts. Mr. Flores, now pursuing a master's degree in social work at UC Berkeley, attributed his success to his undergraduate research and coursework. This type of research has connected students to local issues, which benefits students and the greater community.

Professor of Environmental Engineering and Systems Joshua Viers shared his own journey from poverty and struggle, working several jobs after graduating high school, to enrolling at a California Community College (CCC) and later transferring to UC Davis. It would not have been possible if someone had not taken a chance on him. Mr. Viers felt fortunate that he could participate in decision-making affecting his hometown, this region, and the planet. He has also been able to take a chance on students like Lorenzo Booth. Mr. Booth, a Ph.D. candidate in Electrical Engineering and Computer Science, shared that he worked in Los Angeles and Merced after high school, attended junior college in Merced, and then transferred to UC Merced. He noticed an expectation at UCM that undergraduate students would be involved with research. One of Mr. Booth's undergraduate professors was impressed with his final project and invited him to scale it up in his laboratory. He and other graduate students have led workshops for visiting high school students.

Associate Professor of Sociology Edward Flores shared that he was a member of the Civic Capacity Research Initiative (CCRI). He thanked Interim Chancellor Brostrom and Mr. Camfield for encouraging the work of CCRI. Keila Luna, who recently graduated with a bachelor's degree in Sociology, stated that she joined CCRI to learn how to build power and change policies that affected students of color. Aide Martinez, undergraduate student majoring in Sociology, joined CCRI to gain more leadership skills. She hoped to start a nonprofit that would help immigrant workers start their own companies and cooperatives.

Mr. Flores explained that CCRI built civic capacity among San Joaquin Valley (SJV) community-based and labor organizations through research, education, and policy development. Civic capacity the building of leadership skills would result in community and power building for the most marginalized groups. Despite what community-based organizations, labor organizations, and the University have done, civic capacity remained

uneven. SJV ranked last in the state for economy, employment, and household income, and immigrant naturalization. In 2019, UC Merced raised \$1 million to fulfill a four-pronged mission: develop a pipeline for UCM students to become future leaders in the SJV region; provide policy and research support to organizations serving those in poverty; create a research repository; and establish a UC Merced Community and Labor Center. Mr. Flores listed some of CCRI's community partners. In October 2019, CCRI hosted its inaugural summit, and 170 people from 65 organizations attended. CCRI's work in Census 2020 early education has changed how early Census 2020 outreach is being done in the region.

Ms. Martinez stated that she had never been exposed to a program like CCRI before. She had wanted to work with the local community but did not know how to do so. One of her most memorable experiences with CCRI was meeting South Merced residents, who were excited to speak to a UCM student. She also participated in a naturalization workshop on campus. Ms. Luna stated that she, a member of the 2018 cohort, applied to CCRI because she was interested in making a difference in the local community. She canvassed and conducted a survey in South Merced, listening to residents, using data, making policy developments accessible to the most marginalized residents. After her internship ended, Ms. Luna continued to assist Mr. Flores in his research. She learned the importance to research in changing policy. Ms. Luna's goal was to change how educational policies affect students of color.

Regent-designate Stegura asked how many UC Merced graduates stay in the Central Valley, adding that this was needed to build capacity. Mr. Flores stated that he might not have statistics on those who stay. Ms. Luna replied that her family had moved to the Central Valley when her brother attended UCM. She had formed a bond with the local community through her work with CCRI and wanted to stay and help this community. She saw a lot of her own family in the people of Merced. Regent-designate Stegura asked whether Ms. Luna's peers who came from other areas felt the same way. Ms. Luna responded in the affirmative, adding that many students who engaged with the local community felt empowered and wished to use their skills to help others.

Regent-designate Muwakkil commended the work of CCRI and underscored the benefit of social science-based research. He asked Ms. DeLugan to expound on the benefit of such research. Ms. DeLugan replied that, as an anthropologist and qualitative researcher, it was natural to bring students into the local community to conduct humanistic research. There was science and engineering research that sought solutions to local issues, but projects that were closer to people's lived experiences could help UC connect better with the local community. With funding from the Henry Luce Foundation, UCM was training interdisciplinary humanities graduate students to do community-engaged research. She remarked that anyone could do this research and find meaning in it. Mr. Camfield added that he brought his undergraduate English class with him to create a Mark Twain exhibit at Angel's Camp Museum. The class learned how a community presented itself and how it leveraged a famous figure as an entrée into the local culture.

Regent Zettel thanked CCRI for its work on behalf of UC Merced. She asked whether CCRI engaged the business community. Mr. Flores replied that, unlike those who are

marginalized, corporations and businesses had access to councils, boards, and public agencies. Regent Zettel noted that many small businesses in the local community come from the margins of society. She suggested that they could help marginalized groups. Mr. Flores stated that he was open to working with any organization interested in working with CCRI.

4. **UC MERCED: CREATING OPPORTUNITIES AND ADDRESSING CHALLENGES THROUGH PARTNERSHIP AND COLLABORATION**

Deborah Wiebe, Director of UC Merced Health Sciences Research Institute (HSRI) and Professor of Health Psychology, stated that HSRI, established in 2012, was the second organized research unit at UCM and currently its largest research unit. Over 100 ladder-rank faculty from the Schools of Engineering, Natural Sciences, and Social Sciences, Humanities and Arts were members. The San Joaquin Valley (SJV) has a confluence of issues, such as a large immigrant population, high poverty, low education, poor access to health care, and environmental health risks, that made healthcare problems very complex. Many faculty saw the SJV as a natural laboratory for understanding and addressing complex problems. HSRI's broad imperative was to support world-class, cutting-edge, multidisciplinary research that translates to policies and interventions. For example, HSRI developed the Nicotine and Cannabis Policy Center in response to the ineffectiveness of anti-tobacco policies in the SJV and has worked closely with the community. HSRI was also training the next generation of human health scientists. HSRI has undergraduate and graduate research opportunities, and it has developed a minor and doctoral program in Public Health. HSRI has been incubating medical education to address the healthcare shortage in the SJV, and faculty have been working with UC Davis, UCSF, and UCSF Fresno to develop and deliver programs.

Loren Alving, Director of the San Joaquin Valley Program in Medical Education (PRIME) and neurologist at UCSF Fresno, explained that UCSF Fresno was established 45 years ago to address the physician shortages and train hundreds of doctors and medical students each year. Fifty percent of those trained at UCSF Fresno stayed in the Central Valley, and 85 percent stayed in California, but more were needed to meet population growth and replace retirees. Pipeline programs were very important, especially among underrepresented groups (URGs). The UCSF Fresno Doctors Academy was a pipeline program preparing students from educationally disadvantaged backgrounds; 100 percent of Academy students have been admitted to college, and many were pursuing healthcare in the region. SJV PRIME aimed to address physician shortages by leveraging cooperation among UC Merced, UCSF, and UCSF Fresno and increasing the number of students from the region in medical school. SJV PRIME was a four-year UCSF program that recruited students from the Central Valley and trained them to address regional healthcare issues. The first 18 months of instruction was at UCSF, followed by a six-week optional summer program in the SJV. All campus partners participated in program design and teaching, but UCSF held final oversight as the degree-granting institution. The remainder of instruction was in the SJV, and the final 18 months provided a chance to explore career paths. UCM faculty would provide mentorship to complement the clinical focus of UCSF Fresno faculty. The SJV PRIME curriculum, supplemental to the UCSF curriculum, focused on

“diabesity,” or the diabetes associated with obesity; valley fever; human trafficking; pre-term birth; methamphetamine use; and immigrant health.

Thelma Hurd, Director of Medical Education at UC Merced, explained that UCSF Fresno collaborated with UCM because the latter’s robust research efforts complemented UCSF Fresno’s clinical efforts. UCM, in partnership with UCSF Fresno and the Kaweah Delta Health Care District, was developing a Doctors Academy with Cutler-Orosi High School. The pilot program had potential for replication. UCM was also developing partnerships with communities in the surrounding nine-county area and was working with Mercy Medical Center to create 13 to 15 rotating internships that provide undergraduate students with a third year medical student experience. UCSF Fresno’s mobile clinic allowed UCM students to join medical teams in addressing health problems and their social determinants. UCM faculty participated in the SJV Prime seminars, medical student orientations, and research. In the short term, UCM hoped to grow its partnerships and expand its medical education and research roles. In five years, UCM envisioned a program that would produce leaders who had a deep understanding of health issues in the Central Valley.

Enid Picart shared that, after graduating from UC Merced, she worked in the local community before joining SJV PRIME. A first-generation college student, Ms. Picart participated in a post-baccalaureate pipeline program that helped her apply for medical school. SJV PRIME students wished to stay and serve the region. The program has lost students to other programs because of limited scholarships. She underscored the excellent education she has received through the UCSF, UCSF Fresno, and UC Merced partnership.

State Assemblymember Adam Gray thanked the speakers and thanked the Committee for visiting the Central Valley, which has been receiving more attention from Governor Newsom’s administration. When he was elected into the State Assembly in 2012, Assemblymember Gray inherited political expectations to build a medical school that took advantage of existing facilities in the SJV, but these plans were delayed by the Great Recession and the expansion of the Merced campus. In 2013, he worked with the Legislature to conduct a study through UC Merced on healthcare in the SJV and met with UCSF and UCM to discuss the findings. Community Regional Medical Center, the second largest hospital in the state, had the infrastructure to establish medical school. Assemblymember Gray and representatives from UCSF and UCM visited UC Riverside to learn from that campus’ experience and returned with new ideas on how to establish medical school in the SJV more efficiently and quickly through a partnership with UCSF Fresno. The best way to bring doctors into an underserved region was to train local students and encourage them build a life there. Urban communities benefitted more from expansion of healthcare coverage because of existing infrastructure. Efforts by UCM, UCSF, and UCSF Fresno aimed to improve the quality of life by bringing in economic and healthcare opportunities. He hoped to see a Regent from the Central Valley in the future.

Committee Chair Leib stated that, being from the San Diego area, he has seen how UCSD has buoyed the community. He hoped that the same can happen in the Central Valley.

Regent Zettel thanked Assemblymember Gray for his advocacy, noting that very few legislators were champions of the health needs of their communities. A community’s health

affected education and economic vitality. She asked if others in the Legislature had a similar understanding of health needs and access issues. Assemblymember Gray replied that the small but passionate group included Assemblymembers Joaquin Arambula and Anna Caballero. Assemblymembers Gray and Lorena Gonzalez secured an additional \$100 million for the Song-Brown Program to increase medical residencies. Urban caucuses were less interested. The State should explore new ways to fund residency programs and increase the number of medical schools; California was losing students to schools in other states.

Regent Ortiz Oakley asked how UC could help medical students with debt, which was an obstacle to staying in the region. Dr. Alving replied that seeking scholarship money for students was key. Some students did not even have the money to apply to medical school, and some students worked and could not attend the summer program. First-generation students were hesitant to take out loans. Dr. Hurd added that debt came from eight years of education. Tuition-free community college was a huge help, and UC should work to make transferring a seamless process. Dr. Alving expressed her surprise that it was cheaper to attend some private schools because of their funding through endowment.

Regent-designate Muwakkil thanked Committee Chair Leib for his vision and leadership in deciding to meet at UCM. Community-engaged research was the way to grow UCM, improve the community, and avoid conflict between diversity and excellence. He underscored the importance of pipelines and investing in students. He asked what the Regents could do to help SJV PRIME grow. Assemblymember Gray replied schools should be built in local communities. He was trying to establish a pipeline that started in junior high school. He also suggested a joint M.D. program between UCM and UCSF Fresno with guaranteed loan repayment and a residency position. Regents had supported similar efforts in the past. Funding was also needed. Governor Newsom proposed \$15 million in his January budget to support UCSF Fresno.

Interim Chancellor Brostrom thanked Assemblymember Gray for championing the University and advocating for a \$33 million agriculture technology initiative shared by UC Merced and California State University, Fresno.

Committee Chair Leib thanked the presenters and added that the Regents were eager to help address the healthcare crisis in the Central Valley.

The meeting adjourned at 5:05 p.m.

Attest:

Secretary and Chief of Staff