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NEWS RELEASE

EMBARGOED UNTIL 12:01AM
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TAKING THE NEXT STEP

Questions and Answers on the Partnership between the Great Valley Center and the University of California, Merced

1) Why is the Great Valley Center partnering with the University of California at Merced?

The partnership with the University of California, Merced is a natural extension of the Great Valley Center's ongoing commitment to ensuring a sustainable future for California's Great Central Valley from Redding to Bakersfield. This next step builds on what GVC does best: providing regional information and leadership development, and facilitating and coordinating regional projects.

2) Why is this partnership important to the Great Central Valley?

The partnership combines the community connections and networks of the Great Valley Center with the intellectual resources and research capacity of UC Merced, the newest campus of a world-class university system.

3) How do both organizations benefit from the partnership?

The partnership leverages the strengths of both organizations to better serve California's Great Central Valley. Working together enhances the ability of GVC and UC Merced to tackle tough issues and create new opportunities with the ultimate goal of achieving parity with the rest of California. This new partnership builds on the complementary missions and shared goals of both organizations.

4) Does this agreement change the mission of the Great Valley Center?

No. The mission of the Great Valley Center remains "to support activities and organizations that promote the economic, social and environmental well-being of California's Great Central Valley...."and will include supporting the university's work in the region.

5) Does the agreement alter the geographic territory served by Great Valley Center activities?

No. The target area of the Great Valley Center activities remains unchanged, from Redding to Bakersfield, between the Coast Range and the Sierra mountains.

6) Does this agreement change the nonprofit status of the Great Valley Center in any way?

No. Donations to the Center remain fully deductible for individuals and corporations. GVC is and will continue to be a 501c3 nonprofit corporation. GVC will continue to raise funds to support its work from a variety of public and private sources.



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7) Who will run the Great Valley Center?

The Great Valley Center will continue to be operated by its President, Carol Whiteside, supported by current GVC staff, and directed by a Board of Directors. UC Merced Chancellor Carol Tomlinson-Keasey will be Chairperson of the Board

8) What is the response to the partnership by the California foundations that helped establish the Great Valley Center?

The James Irvine Foundation and the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation have been essential in the founding and growing of the Great Valley Center. Both have pledged significant transitional support as the Great Valley Center begins this stage of its operations.

9) How does UC Merced benefit from this arrangement?

UC Merced benefits by formalizing its relationship with the Center, the Great Valley's leading informational and civic engagement resource. In addition to expanding its network and contacts, UC Merced will also realize significant research and recruitment opportunities.

10) How will the Great Valley Center be funded?

GVC has always operated programs based on available funds. Funds are sought through grants, contracts and donations for specific programs and for core support. Identified funding sources are necessary to continue each program.

11) Will the Great Valley Center relocate to the UC Merced campus?

No. Great Valley Center operations will continue to be based out of our Modesto home at 201 Needham Street. Some university operations may be located at the Center in the future.

12) What does this mean for 2006?

Operations and programs will continue as planned in 2006 and thereafter as long as funding sources are identified. CATAPULT, the Agricultural Transactions Program, Highway 99, IDEAL, GVLI, the 2006 Indicators Report, the Annual Valley Conference, and the Sacramento Valley Forum will continue. Some new regional projects will begin in 2006.

13) Does this partnership preclude GVC from working with other institutions of higher education both within and outside the Valley?

No. The Great Valley Center will work with other institutions as opportunities arise.

This new partnership builds on the complementary missions and shared goals of both organizations. For more information, please visit www.greatvalley.org or www.ucmerced.edu.