

Tulare County Office of Education

Jim Vidak, County Superintendent of Schools

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For Immediate Release

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Tulare County Office of Education Announces:

U.C. Merced Deans to Hold Public Forums in Visalia **March 8, 10 & 29, 2005 · 4:00 pm · Educational Enrichment Center Theater, Visalia**

Tulare County teachers, administrators and community members are invited to special forum discussions with the deans and researchers from U.C. Merced's three major schools — engineering, science and social sciences, humanities and arts. "These researchers are excited to talk about the academic programs and services the university now offers," says Assistant Superintendent of Instructional Services Pansy Ceballos, "and we are pleased to highlight some of the leading research U.C. Merced is now conducting."

The forums will be held in the Multi-Media Theater, located in the Educational Enrichment Center at 2500 Burrel Avenue in Visalia. "These forums are designed to lead to further discussions and possible collaborations," says Tulare County Superintendent of Schools Jim Vidak. "Tulare County teachers should seize the opportunity to meet the faculty from U.C. Merced and share some of our unique teaching challenges and our model programs. Their interest in our work may ultimately lead to partnerships that enrich the educational experience of Tulare County students," adds Mr. Vidak.

The forum series will begin with Dr. Maria Pallavicini, Dean of the School of Science, speaking on March 8. Her research interest is in stem cell biology, genomic and proteomic abnormalities in cancer, particularly leukemia and breast cancer, relationships between genetic damage induced by chemical

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Page 2

exposure and cancer development. Dr. Pallavicini notes that possible collaborations with colleagues at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratories in instrumentation technology development and at UC Merced in computational biology may provide exciting opportunities to link molecular analyses, state-of-the-art instrumentation and mathematical analysis to understand cell-fate decisions in health and disease.

Dr. Kenji Hakuta is a psycholinguist and is best known for his work in the psychology of bilingualism and second language learning, child development, education policy and equal educational access for minority students. Dr. Hakuta, who will speak on March 10, is the author and editor of several books, including "Mirror of Language: the Debate on Bilingualism" and "In Other Words: The Science and Psychology of Second Language Acquisition." Prior to his appointment as Dean of the School of Social Sciences, Humanities and Arts, Dr. Hakuta was the Vida Jacks Professor of Education at Stanford University.

Dean of the School of Engineering, Dr. Jeff Wright, will speak on March 29. He is interested in the use of advanced modeling and information technologies to improve water resources and environmental management, design and implementation of computer-based spatial decision support systems for civil infrastructure, transportation, water resources and land resources engineering management.

Admission to the forums is free, but seating is limited. Forums begin at 4:00 p.m. with refreshments served. To make reservations, contact Sonia Pavao at (559) 651-3041.

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