



YCCD Launches Civic Engagement Initiative

October 5, 2004

MODESTO, CA - In recognition of the growing evidence of disengagement of many college students from the democratic principles that help our country grow and prosper, the Yosemite Community College District announces a new district-wide project that focuses on promoting civic engagement. As part of the district's Educational Excellence Initiative, the Civic Engagement Project will bring about a renewal of enthusiasm for social stewardship.

Research on civic engagement reveals that students are not connected to the larger purposes and aspirations of the American democracy. Voter turnout among college students is low. The Civic Engagement Project will be launched with a film series that is co-sponsored by the Associated Students of MJC and the Modesto League of Women Voters. A moderated discussion will follow the conclusion of each film. The purpose of the discussion is to allow students and members of the community to participate in a political discussion that respects and energizes the audience to become fully engaged in our democracy. The film series is free and open to the public. All films will be shown in the Forum Building at MJC and will start at 7:00 p.m. The schedule is as follows:

October 1 -- *Fog of War*

October 8 -- *Outfoxed: Rupert Murdoch's War on Journalism*

October 15 - *Iron Jawed Angels*

October 22 - *Control Room*

The Modesto League of Women Voters, under the aegis of the Civic Engagement Project, is offering a discussion of the "Pros and Cons of the California Ballot Measures" in the Student Lounge in the MJC Student Center on Thursday, October 21, from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

According to Dr. Jim Williams, Interim YCCD Chancellor, other components of the Civic Engagement Project include community service projects, inviting distinguished speakers to the campuses that represent diverse views and expertise regarding the challenges of our diverse democracy, and development of a Student Civic Leadership Program.