



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: June 24, 2008

Contact: Nick Stavrianoudakis, Director of External Affairs: (209)575-6959, stavrianoudakisn@yosemite.edu

YCCD Plans to Expand MJC Presence on West Side

MODESTO, CA – Chancellor Roe Darnell announced today that the Yosemite Community College District (YCCD) plans to extend services to West Side residents in 2010 by establishing a Modesto Junior College (MJC) educational site in Patterson.

“This site will allow YCCD to expand opportunity on the West Side in the areas of basic higher educational needs, transfer coursework and technical education,” said YCCD Chancellor Darnell.

The District entered into an agreement with Jon and Tamara Maring and Lee and Debra Del Don to accept a donation of 10 acres south of the City of Patterson Sports Park and adjacent to the Patterson City Limits.

According to YCCD Board Chair Abe Rojas, “When a dream becomes a reality, we all prosper. The District’s commitment in working with the West Side communities, along with the generosity of the Maring and Del Don families, should be an inspiration to Turlock, Oakdale and Calaveras in bringing community college services to their communities in the future.”

The identification and agreement on the Patterson site begins the process of developing educational outreach sites identified in Measure E for the West Side, Calaveras, Turlock and Oakdale. Patterson is the first site identified by YCCD and has a current budget of over \$5 million tied to its design and development. In an effort to maximize the benefits of Measure E funds, Darnell explained “the donation by the Marings and Del Dons allows YCCD the opportunity to build more and offer more on the West Side.”

Fall 2007 records show that headcount enrollment in Modesto Junior College totaled 557 Patterson students and 98 Newman students. These 655 represented almost 4% of MJC’s total headcount Fall enrollment. Currently, MJC offers evening classes in three portable buildings housed at the Patterson High School Campus.

With an independent educational site, initial expectations include three structures, of which two are classroom buildings with 8-10 classrooms and one general building to house student services, computer labs, faculty offices and administrative functions. The opportunity to expand offerings increases with the development of this site.

According to Chancellor Darnell, “Over time, as we receive additional funds from the State, we will be able to expand offerings. Having this site up and ready is the first step to taking advantage of State funding opportunities in the future.” It is expected that more classes and a larger variety of classes will become available at the new West Side location. The overall building size is estimated to be between 9-12,000 square feet.

The agreement calls for the development of a West Side educational site on 10 acres of donated land, with the possibility of acquiring additional acreage adjacent to the site. The District is planning for an aggressive two-year window to be open for business. “We will need to work cooperatively with Stanislaus County and the City of Patterson in the initial phases of this project,” stated Chancellor Darnell, “we must also move quickly to finalize site acquisition, because the need for a college outreach site on the West Side is very high.”

YCCD Trustee Anne DeMartini, whose trustee area includes the West Side stated “we’ve expressed our commitment to the West Side and we heard from several potential partners, and found one that will enable us to provide educational services to serve the West Side’s needs.”

YCCD passed a \$326.1 million general obligation bond in November 2004, of which over \$5 million was earmarked for a West Side Center.

-YCCD-