



---

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

---

**Date:** October 21, 2011

**Contact:** Nick Stavrianoudakis, Director of Public Affairs: (209)575-6959, [stavrianoudakisn@yosemite.edu](mailto:stavrianoudakisn@yosemite.edu)

---

## MJC Patterson Site Set to Break Ground in 2012

MODESTO, CA – The Yosemite Community College District Board of Trustees announced a slight change in its MJC Patterson Educational Site plans. The District has agreed to purchase a 4-acre parcel located within the city limits in Patterson’s Keystone Business Park, which would allow the District to begin construction in Summer 2012 with completion by Fall 2013.

The current concept calls for one building with four classrooms. Further details remain to be established by the District and Modesto Junior College in the future, especially with respect to course offerings.

Because of uncertainty with the State’s budget the last few years, YCCD has had to reassess the best way to address the adverse impacts associated with operating outreach sites. The Keystone site proved to be the answer. It provides a stronger presence within the city limits of Patterson and therefore provides better safety and security to students and facilities, and lessens the costs associated with development.

According to YCCD Chancellor, Dr. Joan Smith, “We want to build the most we can in Patterson and serve the needs on the West Side in the shortest possible time frame. Being in the city limits makes Keystone the most viable site. There is too much uncertainty associated with sites in the unincorporated area of the county. Our goal is to reassess and reevaluate our donated 10-acre site after a few years of offering classes at Keystone, to provide us a better indication of where and how to grow in the future. The Keystone site will be well under construction this time next year.”

The District currently owns a 10-acre site which was donated by Jon and Tamara Maring, and Lee and Debra Del Don, however that land is located in the unincorporated area of the county and may be better suited for the possibility of long-term expansion.

Chancellor Joan Smith agrees that “The goal of the District has always been to create the foundation to expand its presence in Patterson. MJC currently offers classes out of portable classrooms at the Patterson High campus in the evenings. There is little flexibility and no room for additional growth. With the construction at Keystone, the college will have an opportunity to grow its offerings over time and respond to the educational needs of the community. Having two locations – one now and one to consider for expansion in the future is a great situation to be in.”

According to Trustee Anne DeMartini who represents the West Side communities on the YCCD Board, “I can’t say how pleased I am that finally action is being taken that will benefit Patterson and the West Side. I appreciate the patience of the people and know how excited they will be that we can finally report some progress that will have tangible and visible results. We look forward to a 2013 grand opening.”