Good morning Riverside!
Thank you for the privilege of speaking with you today.
When I talk to this group, I feel like a CEO addressing the shareholders.
Perhaps because the University of California at Riverside is unlike any other UC campus, in fact, unlike most other research universities.
It made its home in Riverside because this community decided it was going to be here, and as taxpayers you invest in us yearly.
On Valentine’s Day 1907 – the University of California Citrus Experiment station made its home at the foot of Mt. Rubidoux. That small research station was the result of extensive community and political pressure designed to support the burgeoning citrus industry.
After World War II, when the UC Regents were looking to create a new campus in response to the 7.8 million veterans pouring into the education system, Riverside residents, educators and business people decided that the new campus would be here! And they set out to inform the state of that fact.
They basically stalked the campus exploratory committee all over the state. They wrote letters; they wined and dined committee members, and showered them with crates of oranges and grapefruit.
The record is unclear on whether these were meant to be eaten or used to thrown at them! (LOL)
So it’s with a respectful humility that I come to report to you on the progress of your little post-secondary college, which today has grown to a campus of approaching 21,000 students and 7,000 employees.

Economic impact
Over the past 50-plus years, UC Riverside has grown to be a huge economic engine for this region. An analysis of our economic impact, released in November, showed that we generate more than $1.4 billion in economic activity each year. We’re the largest employer in this city, and the third largest in the Inland area. And our economic footprint supports more than 16,000 jobs, most of them in the Inland area.

Our students alone spend more than $488 million a year in your stores, restaurants and rental properties. That’s a nice chunk of change is this economic environment, and one that we need to keep flowing.

And our faculty not only generate millions in additional research funding from the federal government and other sources – a lifesaver and a job creator when state funds are so elusive – they create new technologies and innovations that are being developed commercially right here in Riverside.

To quote Judge John Gabbert, who formed the Citizens University Committee, a determined group of community leaders that brought the UC to Riverside:
“I don’t think anybody in the beginning had any conception of what we see today.
“This is like walking to the top of the mountain and suddenly seeing a great city in front of your eyes.”

Educational impact
One of the most significant contributions of our “great city” is that, last year alone, we sent almost 4,000 newly minted, highly skilled degree holders into the community.

- Individuals with hugely improved prospects for income generation and community involvement.
- The majority of whom are the first in their families to attend college.

This means that we took several thousand young people from mostly low-income families and we helped turn them into savvier, more productive, tax-paying and engaged members of the community. We know this because, currently, 59 percent of our new students are the first in their family to attend college, and we know that the UCs as a whole enroll more Pell grant students (those from low-income families) than any other public or private school in the country, and more than all the Ivy League schools combined.

And we helped turn them into savvier, more productive tax-paying and engaged members of society. Students are continuing to vote with their fee. Last year 29,000 students applied for 3500 slots. These are students for whom UC Riverside is a first choice.

By the way, the UC Regents also are voting with their feet. They are holding their meeting on campus next week. That makes it twice they will have been here during my tenure compared to only once for other campuses.

**Employment prospects for degree-holders**

Now there’s a fallacy that a degree doesn’t help students get a job. Not so. A new study released last week by the Georgetown University Center for Employment and Education looked at young people entering the job market for the first time and found that differences in education level had immediate and tangible results.

The overall unemployment rate for new bachelor's-degree recipients is 8.9 percent. That compares to 22.9 percent for recent high-school graduates and 31.5 percent for recent high-school dropouts.

Let’s round that out and consider the disparity: Nine percent for new degree holders, 23 percent for recent high school graduates and 32 percent for young people who leave without graduating.

As an aside, the unemployment rates in this current economy for bachelor’s-degree holders of all ages, nationwide, is five percent And graduate-degree holders –people with more than a bachelors– enjoy even lower unemployment rates -- about three percent.

**Economic activity from research**

While education is better positioning our students for the job market, our faculty, as I mentioned earlier, is producing new knowledge that translates into economic activity. Last year alone, our UCR researchers reported:

- 54 brand new inventions,
- 65 new patent applications,
- 32 active license agreements
- and an additional 170 active plant license agreements.

One of many examples:

Professor Anandasankar Ray developed a process to block the ability of mosquitoes to detect carbon dioxide. In know that doesn’t sound like the most exciting piece of information in the world. But, because of Prof. Ray’s discovery, mosquitoes won’t be able to find our exposed skin on summer evenings.

That discovery led to licensing with a Riverside nanotechnology firm, Olfactory Laboratories Inc., to bring a new product to market.
Benefits to students from research

The economic life of our community is not the only beneficiary of such work. One of the huge bonuses of a research university, compared to any other degree-granting institution, is that our students are gain from the exciting process of generating new knowledge.

At UCR, we make a concerted effort no only to expose our undergraduate students to these innovative and creative minds in the classroom and lecture hall, but also to work alongside them on their projects and in their labs.

During the summer, for example, we opened the Neil Campbell Science Learning Lab, where students – often non-science majors – work alongside a nationally renowned geneticist and member of the National Academy of Sciences, Dr. Susan Wessler, on her cutting-edge research projects.

The name of the late Neil Campbell is well-known to most students because the name Campbell was most emblazoned on their biology textbook.

Independent endorsements of our progress

I don’t want you just to take my word for it, when I say that faculty like Dr. Wessler and Dr. Ray are making a difference.

A number of organizations and institutions that play the role of “Consumer Reports for universities” both nationally and worldwide are taking notice – and UCR is consistently moving up in those rankings year after year.

Just recently, a Dutch institution – the Leiden University Centre for Science and Technology Studies – ranked UCR the 29th best research university in the world in terms of scientific impact and contributions to scientific collaboration.

The Washington Monthly recently ranked UCR 5th in the nation for contributing to the public good, based our benefit to society through research – that’s the social mobility that our degree provides to our students, and the service our students and university provide to the community. We were in good company. Stanford was fourth and Harvard was sixth.

We remain the most diverse campus among the UCs and, according to U.S News and World Report, the 6th most diverse in the nation.

Even more important, ALL our students are graduating at the same high level regardless of ethnicity – sadly something of a rarity at universities nationwide, and something that has been garnering a considerable amount of attention in the media and in Washington DC. I think about Bowling Green University, for example, where only ten percent of African American students graduate with a bachelor’s after six years. At UCR last year, 79 percent of our African American students graduated.

A nod from the White House

Last year, this area was designated for special attention by the U.S. Department of Education because of our work on educational issues in the community. One of only 12 such special areas in the nation,

I was invited twice to the White House to take part in discussions on improving education for our Latino community – a large and growing percentage of our young people in this area.

And in November, the White House designated UCR as the site of its Community Action Summit. The White House only had one such summit on the West Coast, and we were selected as the site. That’s an acknowledgement of our work and our commitment to education.

Just four weeks ago, my wife Karen and I represented our campus as the guests of the President at the White House in acknowledgement of all UCR’s work in advancing opportunity and helping those in need. An honor bestowed by the President is not about being a democrat or a republican, it’s about being acknowledged by our nation for the work we do.
The president’s words that day were very relevant for this community and for the role that UCR plays in this community. And
He reminded us that we are all bound together:
“We’ve got obligations towards one another,” he said. “And when we are working together, there is nothing we can’t do.”
Those are cheering and confirming words for this community with its history of accomplishing the semi-impossible.

State budget
While last week’s state budget proposal from the governor does not slash the UC budget even further, it does make permanent last year’s mid-year budget “trigger” reduction of $100 million.
This year the Office of the President took that hit.
Next year UCR will have to share in that burden.
Even one-tenth of that amount – $10 million – would present huge problems for a campus run as efficiently as ours. That translates into 75 fewer faculty members that we would otherwise have. But the governor’s proposed budget threatens an additional $200 million from UC if some kind of revenue increase is not forthcoming.
So our work is cut out.
We need … we must … work together to ensure that the funds to run our institutions of higher education are available. – sustainable and predictable funds.
This is not about UCR – or other UCs and CSUs – it’s about the level of the quality of life and community for Californians that we are collectively willing to pay for.
It is about hope and promise for the future.
It is about public money for public good.
We know that the Governor wants to establish an agreement that would provide four-percent increase in base funding each to UC and CSU beginning in the 2013-14 fiscal year.
But the governor’s wishes need to be supported by community and political will to make that happen.
It’s troubling enough to see our low-income students working three jobs to support themselves through college – but at least we are able to provide them full support for their fees.
But the children of middleclass families have no such safety net.
And despite record applications to UCR this year, those families are becoming more and more hard-pressed to finance the ever-increasing fees – fee increases to compensate for decline in state investment.
The good news is that students are voting for UCR with their feet. Last year we had about 29,000 applicants, qualified to attend a UC, for 3,500 slots. That’s 29,000 students who voted for UCR as their first choice. So there’s a few thousand students out there mad at us because they weren’t accepted.
Once again, the budget failed to provide a solid state commitment to guarantee the funding for the medical school. I want to be clear about this: this is a purely political issue. It isn’t a matter of finances.
And the pity of it is that at UCR we have a turnkey operation that will bring untold benefits to the state and the region:
  o All the construction is already paid for. We have two great buildings equipped to handle 80 medical students a year.
  o The programs and the institutional agreements in place.
o The administration team complete and faculty are already joining us and beginning their research.
o The initial medical training program already up and running.
o New faculty recruits are arriving.
o And at the community level, a humongous and growing need for new doctors
  – Doctors who will generation large amounts of economic activity.
  – Doctors who will keep money in this area that now is hemorrhaging into medical institutions in Los Angeles and Orange counties, even San Diego.
  – Doctors who will save state millions of dollars a year in primary care that now is overflowing into the emergency rooms.

- And yet the political will to solve the problem seems not to have coalesced yet, and I ask for your help in holding our elected officials to a higher level of accountability on this issue. Let’s be clear: There is not greater transformative development economically, in quality of life and vibrancy of the community than this medical school. Look at what has happened in the areas surrounding the medical centers at UCLA and UC Irvine, at UC San Diego and UC San Francisco.

**Working together to create change**
The old proverb tells us, *For want of a nail . . . the kingdom was lost.*
Well we are going to find that nail and working together we will accomplish our goal.

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