May 7, 2008

From the Office of the Chancellor

On behalf of the University of California, Riverside, I welcome you to the Diversity Leadership Awards Luncheon. I applaud today’s award recipients for their vision in promoting the intellectual and cultural richness that diversity brings to the community.

In the university setting, diversity not only broadens the educational experience for our students and prepares them for an increasingly global society, but it also enriches the scholarly enterprise to the benefit of society. Increasing the diversity of our campus is one of the most important things we can do for the health of our campus and the achievement of our tripartite mission.

The Regents recognized this at their September meeting, voting unanimously to support a statement by the Academic Senate on the importance of diversity. The statement includes a definition of diversity that I would like to share with you:

Because the core mission of the University of California is to serve the interests of the State of California, it must seek to achieve diversity among its student bodies and among its employees. The State of California has a compelling interest in making sure that people from all backgrounds perceive that access to the University is possible for talented students, staff, and faculty from all groups. The knowledge that the University of California is open to qualified students from all groups, and thus serves all parts of the community equitably, helps sustain the social fabric of the State.

Today’s awards luncheon – along with the tapestry of activities that comprise the inaugural New Visions for Diversity Celebration – serves to celebrate our achievements. This week’s events also remind us to rededicate ourselves to strengthening diversity in all its dimensions and at all levels of the institution and our larger community.

Sincerely,

Robert D. Grey
Acting Chancellor