



MJC Reflection

September 5, 2014

This week brought the incredible opportunity to meet with UC President Janet Napolitano at Merced College. Community College presidents and chancellors from the Central Valley and Far North regions of California gathered with President Napolitano, UC Merced Chancellor Leland, and a team of representatives of the UC President's Office. A community college leader with 30 years of experience noted that the meeting was the first time they had ever had the opportunity to engage in conversation with the UC President. As you may have read in the [Modesto Bee](#) or [Merced Sun Star](#), the purpose of the meeting was to increase transfers from California community colleges to UC institutions.

During the seemingly brief hour and a half meeting, President Napolitano expressed and emphasized the value of the community college as a pathway to the UC. Community college presidents shared openly several of the challenges faced by students seeking transfer to the UC. A rich dialogue developed around the challenges and manners in which the pathway for students can be enhanced. This was the first of several meetings scheduled across the state with regional community college leaders stemming from the recent report [Preparing California for its Future: Enhancing Community College Transfer to UC](#).

It was energizing and encouraging to hear President Napolitano speak about the success of community college transfer students in the UC system. Specifically, she noted:

- Community college transfers comprise 30% of the UC undergraduate population.
- Community college transfer students complete Bachelor Degrees at the UC at a higher rate than students who start at the UC as freshmen.
- Community colleges do an excellent job preparing students for UC transfer.

I look forward to partnering with President Napolitano to fulfill the vision of enhancing community college transfer to UC.

*We cannot accomplish all that we need to do
without working together.*

Bill Richardson

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