

NEWS

From Supervisor Gary Ovitt
Fourth District, San Bernardino County



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
February 20, 2006

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County Supervisor Gary Ovitt Joins in Unveiling of Chaffey College Health Sciences Center

Chino - Supervisor Ovitt, alongside representatives from Chaffey College unveiled plans for the new Chaffey College Health Sciences Center in Chino. A Science Center co funded by the County that will address the current County nursing shortage.

“This science center is a step in the right direction in addressing our local healthcare needs,” stated Ovitt. “The partnership with Chaffey College creates a unique opportunity to better equip the County in addressing the local shortage of healthcare professionals, and expand healthcare services for the medically indigent, the elderly, and children’s healthcare services.”

Funding for the Chaffey College Health Sciences Center in Chino will help address the County’s need for additional nurses. The State’s Economic Development Department forecasts over 11,000 new Registered Nurses will be required annually over the next five years in California.

“With nursing schools around San Bernardino County averaging twice as many applicants as available slots, there just isn’t the educational infrastructure to produce the “home-grown” nurses we desperately need,” stated Ovitt.

Chaffey College recently acquired state land in the city of Chino and passed bonds to start developing a new campus extension. Interest on those bonds could pay for about 40% of a new health sciences center. A center that would almost double Chaffey’s current graduation class of nurses and send a yearly influx to hospitals throughout San Bernardino County.

“My proposal uses \$4 million in tobacco settlement reserve funds to match the college’s investment for a health science center and to tie a portion of those graduates to serve at Arrowhead Regional Medical Center,” stated Ovitt. “I see it as a healthcare savings account, paid for by *Big Tobacco*.”

For additional information regarding the Chino Health Science Center, please contact Supervisor Ovitt’s District Office at 909-465-1895.