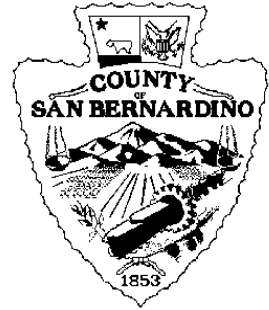


NEWS

From the Office of

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Riverside, San Bernardino Counties Donate \$200K for Med School Study

Inland Counties join forces to fund needs assessment study for medical school at UC Riverside

SAN BERNARDINO — In a strong showing of bi-county political and financial cooperation, the Boards of Supervisors in Riverside and San Bernardino counties on Tuesday allocated up to \$200,000 to fund an independent study that will examine the need for a medical school at UC Riverside.

Supervisors Bob Buster and Bill Postmus, current chairmen of the Riverside and San Bernardino County Boards, respectively, agreed that the medical school would help address the region's critical shortage of physicians, while also serving as a major economic catalyst.

"To be among the fastest growing urban areas in the country and also among the most medically underserved is a recipe for disaster," Buster said. "A medical school at UCR will help us keep more talented physicians in our two-county region and I am thrilled to see both Boards recognize this great need and step up to meet it together."

Postmus said the decision to support and fund the medical school study was not a difficult one.

"A new medical school in our region will add to an already solid foundation of physicians and health care facilities to ensure quality care for residents of our two counties," Postmus said. "It also offers the ability to bring thousands of new jobs and millions of new tax dollars to the Inland Empire."

The study is expected to examine the region's physician needs over the next quarter century in comparison to other regions in California and other states. It will also look at public health issues unique to the region and how they might be addressed by a medical school at UCR.

Each board voted to authorize up to \$100,000 to fund the study, which is expected to commence in the next four weeks.

According to a 2004 report done by the University of California's Health Sciences Committee, the Inland Empire's shortfall for doctors will reach 53% or nearly 1,140 doctors within the decade. Currently, only ¼ of California's physicians are trained in the State.

(more)

UC Riverside submitted a formal written proposal for a medical school last month to a special subcommittee of the UC Office of the President. The committee is expected to issue a report on the medical school proposals it has reviewed on June 28.

In its effort to land the next medical school campus in the UC system, UCR has an advantage over other campuses in that its proposal would not require construction of a new hospital to serve the medical school, resulting in a significant reduction in cost. Instead, UC Riverside's medical school plan calls for collaboration with existing hospitals in the region.