

HIGHER EDUCATION

UCSC to hold college prep day

Event's goal is to increase attendance from Monterey County

By ROBERT SALONGA
The Salinas Californian

The University of California, Santa Cruz, will strive to boost attendance from Monterey County with a college preparation fair Saturday.

The university's Educational Partnership Center will host its sixth annual College Family Conference, which provides a wealth of knowledge to students and parents about getting ready for higher education, filing for financial aid and scholarships and preparing for college life.

Nearly 800 students and parents are expected to attend the event, part of ongoing efforts by the center to increase college readiness in schools.

DETAILS

For more information about resources offered by the University of California, Santa Cruz, and its partner schools in Chualar, Gonzales, Greenfield and north Monterey County, contact your local school or the UCSC Educational Partnership Center at 459-3500.

The center has partnerships with schools in north Monterey County, Chualar, Gonzales and Greenfield, providing staff counselors

and undergraduate volunteers to boost college attendance in those regions.

In fact, residents of south Monterey County will benefit from a six-year, \$4.3 million federal grant awarded to the center for that purpose, said Jaimie Vargas, its director of development and communication.

"It allows us to ... really focus on developing that college-bound community," Vargas said.

The center also provides teacher professional devel-

opment and help with day-to-day assistance for students in choosing the right class lineup and filling out college applications and essays.

Their collaborative approach, Vargas said, includes teachers, administrators and parents in the effort to prepare students for higher education.

"It really is ... about getting all of us together on the same page," Vargas said.

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