



Creating college bound communities



UCSC Educational Partnership Center
1101 Pacific Avenue, Suite 210
Santa Cruz, California 95060
Phone: (831) 459-3500
Fax: (831) 459-3570
<http://epc.ucsc.edu>

MEDIA ADVISORY For Saturday, February 9, 2008

Contact: Jaimie Vargas
Director of Development & Communication
Mobile: 831.239.9130
Direct: 831.459.1747
Email: jvargas@ucsc.edu

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STUDENTS GET READY FOR LIFE AFTER HIGH SCHOOL

'Highlight to the Future: College & Career Family Conference' Focuses on College Readiness and Career Opportunities for Middle and High School Students in PVUSD

- WHAT:** **Highlight to the Future: College & Career Family Conference**
Co-sponsored by Pajaro Valley Unified School District (PVUSD) and UC Santa Cruz Educational Partnership Center (EPC), the 2nd Annual Conference will help middle and high school students and families explore college and career options and learn about academic preparation and other steps to take for success on the college-going pathway.
- WHO:** Ricardo Medina, Deputy Superintendent, PVUSD
Elisa Herrera-Mahoney, Assistant Vice Chancellor, Student Affairs, UCSC
Pedro Rivas, Educator, Playwright, and UCSC alum, Keynote Speaker
Middle and high school students from PVUSD and parents/families
- WHEN:** Saturday, February 9, 2008
7:30 – 2:00 p.m.; registration from 7:30 – 8:30 a.m.
- WHERE:** Watsonville High School
250 E. Beach Street, Watsonville, CA 95076
Opening in Mello Center, workshops at WHS, and lunch in Veteran's Hall
- WHY:** About 500 students and parents are expected at the college and career conference, part of the ongoing collaborative efforts between PVUSD and EPC to support student academic achievement and increase college-going rates. Students face significant roadblocks on the pathway to college, including lack of academic preparation, college awareness, and understanding of college and career options and financial aid resources. To support student success and build family support for students' college aspirations, the conference will provide English and Spanish workshops on a variety of important topics, such as: academic enrichment through COSMOS, Girls in Engineering, MESA, EAOP, GEAR UP, and Upward Bound; scholarships and financial aid and understanding the FAFSA; UC/CSU admissions; career exploration and career assessments; succeeding at community college; A-G high school requirements; test-taking strategies and time management skills; and parent and student panels. Other key partners involved with the conference include: PVUSD Federal & State Programs, Migrant Education Region XI, Adult Education, Extended Learning, Santa Cruz County Office of Education/R.S.D.S.S., La Manzanita Community Resources, First 5 Santa Cruz County Reclaiming Future Initiatives, and PVPSA.

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