

The Health Executive Exchange
Riverside Community Health Foundation
4445-A Magnolia Avenue
Riverside, CA 92501

January 30, 2009

Phyllis A. Guze, M.D.
School of Medicine Planning Office
University of California
Riverside, CA 92521

Dear Dr. Guze:

The *Health Executive Exchange* of Riverside strongly supports the medical school initiative at the University of California, Riverside (UCR). Inland Southern California, one of the most rapidly growing regions in the state, is facing a physician shortage of crisis proportion. The number of practicing physicians per 100,000 persons in the region is a little more than half that of the statewide average and, by 2015, the doctor shortfall could be as high as 53 percent. The region trails much of the state in several key health indicators, such as high incidence of coronary heart disease and diabetes, and in infant mortality.

The *Health Executive Exchange (HEXEX)* works towards the development of interdisciplinary partnerships amongst key health stakeholders of Riverside City and County. Through separate yet interconnected health-driven work-plans of *HEXEX*'s various sub-committees, cohesive and collaborative visioning, planning, and implementation of synergistic strategies will increase the health status of diverse underserved populations currently manifesting poor health outcomes in Riverside City and County. Premised on the broader determinants of health, *HEXEX* is expected, over the next 5-10 years, to be a significant change catalyst for place transformation, affecting social environment and eliciting collaborative capacity building and leveraging towards individual and collective behavioral shifts for positive health outcomes. *HEXEX* also represents a transportable policy changing model for systems-change with the potential of impacting multiple communities locally as well as statewide. Driven by a long-term view, *HEXEX* participants are focusing on systemic change impacting current and future generations' health status. (For the list of participants, see attached document).

UCR's innovative vision for the medical school, building on its existing and highly praised medical education program, focuses on meeting regional health care needs by expanding and diversifying the physician workforce and developing research and health care delivery programs to improve the health of underserved populations. The University of California Board of Regents has approved establishment of the medical school. A public investment is now needed so that we can begin to confront the physician shortage and thereby expand access to health care for our currently underserved population.

Sincerely,

Members of the *Health Executive Exchange*

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