

**Chamber to Host State of City Address**

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**Chamber November 2 Voter Guide**

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**Festival of Lights Returns to Riverside**

See page 7



GREATER RIVERSIDE

NOVEMBER 2010



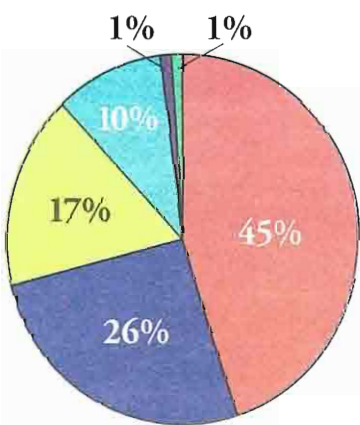
**BUSINESS**

Volume 30, Number 11

*"The Chamber...building a stronger local economy"*

**Chamber Members Count!**

Comparing the local economy today to what it was 12 months ago, would you say that the local economy is:



- Little or No Change
- Somewhat Stronger
- Somewhat Weaker
- Significantly Weaker
- Significantly Stronger
- Don't Know

*Each month, the Chamber helps build a stronger local economy through surveying its membership.*

**GRB Inside Highlights**

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**Chamber's Advocacy Key to \$10 Million State Funding of UCR Medical School**

*California's new state budget keeps the UCR School of Medicine on track for 2012 opening*

The Chamber applauds the state Legislature and Gov. Schwarzenegger for approving \$10 million in the state budget for the School of Medicine at the University of California, Riverside. With the \$10 Million state appropriation, UCR remains on track to enroll its first incoming class of 50 medical students in fall 2012.

"Our business community recognizes the wealth of innovation and improved health care that the School of Medicine will bring to our region," said Sharon Tyrrell, Chairman of the Chamber Board and Owner of Capree Escrow.

"Together, we sent hundreds of letters, spoke with our legislators, and advocated to fully fund the School of Medicine. We are thrilled to see the fruits of our community's efforts, but most importantly, we can't wait to see as the first class of students walk into the UCR School of Medicine in 2012," Tyrrell concluded.

"This is wonderful news for Inland Southern California," said UCR Chancellor Timothy P. White. "Even in these hard economic times, strategic investments for the future are vital. We are gratified that the community and our elected leaders concurred that confronting the physician shortage is a challenge we cannot afford to put off," White said.



The Health Sciences Research Building, currently under construction, will serve as the initial research platform for the UCR School of Medicine. Another campus building will be renovated to create the School of Medicine Education Building.

Founding medical school Dean G. Richard Olds, who arrived at UCR in February 2010, says the state funding will help UCR meet its target date for opening, and help it attract other private funding.

The School of Medicine still needs to secure \$30 million in funding over the next four years to get up and running. When it opens, it will be California's first new public medical school in nearly half a century.

See Medical on page 10

**Chamber Warns Proposition 19 Jeopardizes Workplace Safety**

*Proposition 19 makes it hard for employers to prohibit marijuana use in the workplace.*

The Chamber opposes Proposition 19, a ballot measure that would legalize marijuana, because the vague wording in the initiative has severe consequences for employers regarding workplace issues.

**Employment Issues**

Prop. 19 creates a new protected class of workers and prohibits discrimination against marijuana users, just like age, gender and ethnicity. Even though pre-employment drug testing is not prohibited, an employer cannot use the results of a positive marijuana test as the reason not to hire an applicant.

An employer that does not hire an applicant who was unqualified for the job, but who also happens to smoke pot, could face a lawsuit with the applicant claiming he or she didn't



get the job because the employer knew the applicant smokes marijuana.

**Workplace Safety**

The measure states that an employer could ban employees from using pot if the consumption actually impairs job performance. The question here becomes "what does 'actual impairment' mean?" and "how do you prove 'actual impairment'?"

For example, if a forklift driver showed up smelling of marijuana smoke, an employer could not take disciplinary action under Prop. 19 until it could be proven that the employee's job performance was "actually impaired" by the marijuana use. If Prop. 19 passes, the worker with marijuana in his or her system may not be removed from the job until after an accident occurs.

See Proposition 19 on page 8

**Chamber Focuses on Improving Schools**

*CA Ed. Secretary urges business, education leaders to join education reform effort*

California Secretary of Education Bonnie Reiss recently told Chamber members that the business and education community both need to take action to fix the public school system by serving on school boards, state commissions or in elected office.

Secretary Reiss was the keynote speaker at the Chamber's Legislative Summit, sponsored by Best Best & Krieger LLP, at the Riverside Convention Center where over 250 Chamber members attended. State Senators Bob Dutton and Bill Emmerson, State Assembly members Kevin Jeffries and Brian Nestande, UCR Chancellor Timothy White, and UCR Assistant Vice Provost Pamela Clute also spoke at the event.

Reiss said the nation's public schools are facing a crisis, schools get twice as much money than a decade ago and test scores are still flat.

"Decades of research shows that principal and teacher effectiveness is the single most important school-based factor determining student achievement. That is why the most critical solution to fixing the system is to ensure that schools have effective teachers, and addressing this must be the top priority of superintendents, school boards and the business community," she said.

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