UCR Palm Desert Announces Inaugural Wilson Center Symposium on Sustainability for April, 2011

PALM DESERT, CA – UCR Palm Desert announced plans for the inaugural Wilson Center Symposium to be held in April, 2011. The Wilson Center, named in honor of Riverside County Supervisor S. Roy Wilson, is being developed by UCR as a center for sustainable environmental and energy systems and will be located at UCR Palm Desert.

The Wilson Center Symposium will be an annual event that brings together research, industry and public policy sectors to learn about the latest developments in sustainability and renewable energy. The Symposium challenges participants to consider the interrelated dimensions of sustainability: environmental support systems (air, water, and natural ecosystems), urban systems (land use, transportation, socio-economic), and alternative or renewable energy.

“Presenters will convey innovative research, public policy developments, technologies and business practices that will require collaboration among all sectors to ensure sustainability for today and for the needs of future generations” said UCR professor Joseph Norbeck, one of the founding faculty members of the Wilson Center.

“Last week UCR held a one-day workshop on the different dimensions of sustainability – energy, air and water pollution, habitat preservation, and public policy. The workshop highlighted the need to integrate expertise from a variety of disciplines – agricultural sciences, engineering, environmental sciences, the social sciences, and public policy – to fully realize sustainability. The Wilson Center Symposium will do precisely that – it will facilitate dialogue across disciplines as well as between industry, government and academia to promote sustainability.” said UCR professor Anil Deolalikar.

The development of the S. Roy Wilson Center for Sustainable Energy and Environmental Systems at UCR Palm Desert is a multi-disciplinary effort that includes UCR faculty, staff and students from a number of UCR research centers including the Environmental Research Institute, the Center for Environmental Research and Technology, Conservation Biology, Air Pollution Research Center, Water Resources and Management, Center for Sustainable Suburban Development, and the UCR Public Policy Initiative.

UCR is partnering with the Coachella Valley Economic Partnership to find federal and grant funding to develop a research center that will apply a system of uniquely integrated environmental and social models and data bases that can be used to characterize present conditions in the Coachella Valley and to simulate various alternative futures under different scenarios of sustainable development and growth. These efforts can be applied to other regions of Riverside County, California and throughout the United States when appropriate. Education at all levels will be a major component of the Center’s agenda. The Center will be named in honor of longtime Riverside County Supervisor Roy Wilson.

The UCR Palm Desert-based lecture series “Imagining the Future” has been showcasing the rich expertise of UCR faculty for the past four years. Next year this popular lecture series will focus exclusively on the science of sustainability.

For more information about this program and other programs at UCR Palm Desert, visit palmdesert.ucr.edu or call (760) 834-0590.

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