The prospects for Ventura County's economy in the coming year will be the topic of a special seminar to be presented in Oxnard next week by the Economic Forecast Project of the University of California, Santa Barbara.

The half-day program on Thursday, February 21, will feature several guest speakers who will review the performance of the local and regional economies in 2001 and offer the outlook for the Ventura County economy in 2002. Special attention will also be given to the outlook for commercial real estate in Ventura County.

The UCSB Economic Forecast Project is a research unit that provides regional economic data, analysis, and forecasts to the community.

The Ninth Annual Ventura County Economic Forecast Seminar will be held at the Residence Inn by Marriott, Oxnard River Ridge, 2101 W. Vineyard Ave., Oxnard. Registration and breakfast begin at 7:30 a.m. The program continues through noon.

Featured speakers for the program include:

Dr. Richard Rush, president of California State University, Channel Islands, speaking on the economic impact of the new university.
Dr. David Hayes-Bautista, professor at the UCLA School of Medicine and Director of the Center for the Study of Latino Health and Culture: "The Demographics of the New Economy."

Leslie Appleton-Young, Vice President and Chief Economist for the California Association of Realtors: "The Ventura County Real Estate Review and Forecast."

Dr. Bill Watkins, executive director of the UCSB Economic Forecast Project and a former research economist at the Federal Reserve in Washington, D.C.: "The Ventura County Economic Review and Forecast."

Admission to the seminar is $125 per person and includes a copy of the book "2002 Ventura County Economic Outlook." To register for the seminar, or for more information, contact the UCSB Economic Forecast Project by phone, (805) 893-5148; fax, (805) 893-2754; or on the web: www.ucsb-efp.com # # #

Note to Editors: Press coverage of the seminar is invited. Contact Dan Oh at (805) 893-5148 or dan.oh@ia.ucsb.edu

About UC Santa Barbara

The University of California, Santa Barbara is a leading research institution that also provides a comprehensive liberal arts learning experience. Our academic community of faculty, students, and staff is characterized by a culture of interdisciplinary collaboration that is responsive to the needs of our multicultural and global society. All of this takes place within a living and learning environment like no other, as we draw inspiration from the beauty and resources of our extraordinary location at the edge of the Pacific Ocean.