The prospects for Ventura County's economy in the year ahead will be the topic of two upcoming special half-day seminars to be presented by the Economic Forecast Project of the University of California, Santa Barbara. The Economic Forecast Project is a research unit that provides regional economic data, analysis, and forecasts to the community.

In the eastern part of the county, a program will be held Thursday morning, February 19, in the Lundring Events Center at California Lutheran University in Thousand Oaks. Registration and breakfast begin at 7 a.m. and the program begins at 8 a.m.

In the western part of the county, a seminar will be offered the following morning, Friday, February 20, at the Marriott Residence Inn at River Ridge, 2101 W. Vineyard Ave., in Oxnard. Registration and breakfast begin at 7 a.m. and the program begins at 8 a.m.

Both programs will include presentations by these featured speakers:

- Bill Watkins, Ph.D., 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"
· Dan Walters, syndicated newspaper columnist: "State of the State"

· Kirk Lesh, real estate economist, UCSB Economic Forecast Project: "Real Estate Outlook for 2009"

· Gary Findley, President, Gary Steven Findley & Associates: "Community Banking Outlook for 2009 and 2010"

Admission to the seminar is $110 per person until February 6 and $125 per person after that date. The registration fee includes a copy of "The 2009 Ventura County Economic Outlook" publication. To register, or for information, visit the UCSB Economic Forecast Project on the Web at www.ucsb-efp.com or call (805) 893-5159.

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.