UC SANTA BARBARA

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Shaping the Future

The campus's Early Academic Outreach Program (EAOP) will host 450 high school juniors from six school districts Saturday, Feb. 8, for the 9th Annual Education, Leadership, and Careers Conference (ELCC).

In addition to hearing from keynote speaker Antonio Garcia, district superintendent of Santa Maria Joint Union High School, as well as UCSB Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs Margaret Klawunn and Assistant Vice Chancellor for Enrollment Services Mike Miller, the students — who hail from Santa Barbara, Ventura and Kern counties — will participate in small group sessions with leadership mentors from a broad range of fields and professions.

Afternoon panel discussions with UC Santa Barbara undergraduate students will highlight a range of topics, from the college application process and the availability of financial aid to campus life and academics.

The majority of those attending the conference are first-generation, low-income students who are enrolled in EAOP, a pre-college academic preparation program designed to increase college-going enrollment rates at all four higher education systems in California (UC, Cal State, California Community Colleges and private and independent schools).

"The goal of the conference is to inspire and motivate high school juniors to stay on their path to college eligibility and keep the doors of opportunity open and available," said EAOP Director Britt Ortiz. "We want to show participants how all of

these elements — education, leadership and careers — relate to each other, build on one another and impact a person’s lifestyle options and help shape their path to career success.

“This is a culminating event for our EAOP high school juniors,” Ortiz continued. “We hope that by providing both professional and undergraduate perspectives we can help them to envision their success, and we hope that by the time students finish their day here they will truly feel that their dreams can come true with hard work, dedication, persistence and believing in themselves.”

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.