UCSF Fresno hires director to develop support for medical residency programs

FRESNO - Cynthia D. Harris has been appointed Director of Development for the UCSF Fresno Medical Education Program.

Harris will be responsible for developing a strategic plan to cultivate, identify and accept major gift donations from interested donors throughout the Central Valley to support UCSF Fresno’s seven core residency programs, according to UCSF Fresno Associate Dean Joan Voris, who made the appointment. The residency programs include emergency medicine, family and community medicine, internal medicine, obstetrics/gynecology, pediatrics, psychiatry and surgery.

“UCSF Fresno trains about one-third of the physicians practicing in this area,” said Voris. “In fact, the physician who last treated you most likely completed his or her residency through the UCSF Fresno Medical Education Program.”

“We are thrilled that Cynthia is joining us to promote UCSF Fresno’s contributions to the Valley community and to foster charitable contributions that will strengthen our medical education program and further its expansion,” added Voris.

Harris has nearly 20 years of fundraising, marketing and business experience in both private and non-profit corporations. Before joining UCSF Fresno, Harris was employed at Hinds Hospice as Director of Fund Development. A native of Fresno, Harris graduated from California State University, Fresno with a bachelor’s degree in journalism with a public relations option and a minor in business administration.

UCSF Fresno Medical Education Program plays a substantial role in providing health care services to residents of California's San Joaquin Valley and training medical professionals in the region. UCSF Fresno has trained approximately one-third of Valley physicians currently practicing in one of the seven specialties in which it provides training. Since its inception more than 30 years ago, UCSF Fresno has graduated more than 2,000 resident physicians. UCSF Fresno faculty and medical residents care for the overwhelming majority of the area’s underserved populations. UCSF Fresno currently trains about 200 medical residents, nearly 200 medical students and a number of fellows in critical care, cardiology and pulmonary medicine. UCSF Fresno also provides academic preparation programs for middle- and high-school students interested in the health professions through the Doctors Academy and Junior Doctors Academy.

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