

March 6, 2006

### **Message from the Chair Emeritus—Dick Johanson**

Last week I attended the Fresno Compact Shareholders Luncheon. Ten organizations were recognized for their generous contributions to our schools. I could not but think of the uncounted volunteers who quietly, effectively and continuously give of themselves in so many different ways. Each of these wonderful community builders cares deeply about this place. Their external awards are few but their internal satisfaction is immeasurable. Wouldn't it be something if we could create a humongous annual event to celebrate all of our givers at one time and at one place? We could fill the Saroyan Theatre, or Selland Arena, or Grizzlies Stadium, or the Save-Mart Center, or Bulldog Stadium (on two nights if necessary!). Just a thought.

### **Research > Innovation > Commercial Opportunity = Jobs**

Research universities create an environment where discoveries and innovation happen. UC Merced recently recruited Raymond Chiao, an award-winning atomic, molecular and optical physicist. Einstein theorized that gravity travels in waves, like heat or sound. If his research is successful, the results could generate a new kind of "gravity radio waves" opening up whole new areas of science and engineering. A commercial application could include a new kind of long-distance wireless communication. Imagine wireless communication that could travel through the earth, creating a direct line between opposite points on the globe. Chiao was born in China, completed his undergraduate degree at Princeton and earned his doctorate at MIT, both in physics. For more information go to [www.ucinthevalley.org](http://www.ucinthevalley.org).

### **Planning as a Region—San Joaquin Valley Selected for Blueprint Project**

High growth areas of the state must address both the positive and negative impacts of increasing population. In order to improve transportation in the state, regions were offered an opportunity to be selected for the first round of Blueprint Planning Projects. The intention is to "build capacity for regional collaboration and integrated planning, foster more efficient land use patterns that support improved mobility and accommodate an adequate supply of housing for all incomes, and reduce impacts on valuable habitat and farmland while creating vibrant, healthy neighborhoods." The Councils of Government (COGs) in the Valley are on the point and must partner with the state to facilitate the effort. The deliverable is a plan that must have the following components:

- ◆ Vision for the region developed through public consensus.
- ◆ Graphic display and map of the preferred growth scenario or blueprint for the future.
- ◆ Major policies and strategies for meeting the vision in the areas of transportation, land use, housing, environmental protection, and economic development.
- ◆ Performance measures.

Clearly, we have an opportunity to decide how we want the Valley to grow and to set priorities that will foster economic vitality. Whether or not we capitalize on this opportunity is up to us.

### **New Valley Inforum—The Soul of Money**

Capital in its many forms has been a challenge in the Valley. We talk about the brain drain and our need for more intellectual capital. We talk about the lack of trust and fragmented efforts suggesting a lack of social capital. Most of all, we talk about our lack of financial capital, whether it is venture capital to invest in new businesses, money for infrastructure and public services or the lack of resources to attend to our pressing social concerns and struggling nonprofits. Perhaps all of these challenges have the same root—what we believe about ourselves and others. Lynne Twist, author of *The Soul of Money: Transforming Your Relationship with Money and Life*, will speak at the Inforum next week to talk about the role of money in our lives and the essence of prosperity. You can get tickets online at the Lyles for Entrepreneurship & Innovation at <http://www.lylescenter.com>. The event is Tuesday, March 14 from 5:30 to 8:30 a.m. at Fresno Memorial Auditorium.

### **Upcoming Events & Activities**

Thursday, March 3 from 4:00 to 5:30 p.m. —Board meeting (Location to be announced)

Wednesday, March 29 from 7:30 to 9 a.m. —Spring Membership Meeting (Kaiser—Yosemite Conference RM—3<sup>rd</sup> Floor)

