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**Contact Information:**  
Katie Albertson  
Director of Governmental Affairs  
County of Merced  
209-385-7636  
[kalbertson@co.merced.ca.us](mailto:kalbertson@co.merced.ca.us)

### **Merced County Transit Provides Transportation at UC Merced Graduation**

Merced, CA – It was a once-in-a-lifetime event. UC Merced's first-ever graduation ceremony featuring a keynote speech by First Lady Michelle Obama (the only engagement of its kind in 2009). And Merced County Transit was on duty to ensure quality and safe shuttles between the various satellite parking lots and the graduation ceremony.

Teaming with Merced-based charter operator VIA Adventures, Merced County Transit provided a fleet of 88 vehicles including 77 buses. Each coach operator was hand-picked, underwent security screening, and commended special event orientation and training. Curtis Riggs, VIA Adventure's president, complemented Merced County Transit drivers for their focus on safety. Despite hot weather conditions, along with numerous on-the-spot service changes, thousands of UC Merced guests were transported without a single accident or incident.

UC Merced, the newest campus in the prestigious University of California system, is considered by many to be the first new American research university of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. In addition to the many special research institutes, building design and construction at UC Merced reflects the latest in energy and resource conservation, embracing the university's long-standing commitment to environmental sustainability.

Merced County Transit is a joint power authority composed of the cities of Atwater, Dos Palos, Gustine, Livingston, Los Banos, Merced, and the County of Merced. The program is administered by the Merced County Department of Public Works-Transportation Division.