

# UCSC's impact on economy

## *Chancellor tells chamber of benefits*

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Despite UC-Santa Cruz's impact on traffic and growth in the Santa Cruz area, the university has brought great benefits to the region, Chancellor Robert Stevens told the Aptos Chamber of Commerce this morning.

The 2,300 members of UCSC's faculty and staff and its 9,600 students pumped an estimated \$374 million into the local economy during academic year 1987-88, Stevens said at his breakfast speech at the Seacliff Inn.

"We have had a tremendous impact on the local economy," he said.

In addition, the university has \$100 million of construction work under way, and Stevens at first estimated 87 percent of that

amount is going to local firms. When questioned by audience members later, however, he said many of the large contractors come from out of town, and that it is sometimes difficult to find local firms to which work may be subcontracted.

Stevens said the university also has far-reaching influence on the cultural life of the county.

He cited in particular Shakespeare Santa Cruz's annual summer festival, and visiting lecturers such as astrophysicist Stephen Hawking, author of "A Brief History of Time," who drew a large crowd when he spoke at UCSC last year.

He said UCSC also hopes soon to build a new recital hall, which might be able to accommodate some community events as well as university events.

Stevens acknowledged, however, that current university facilities are already overbooked by UCSC's own programs. For instance, he said, few plays are put

on in the spring, because the dance programs have priority for performance halls then.

Nevertheless, he said, UCSC "makes the city and the county a more attractive place."

Stevens repeated data from the university's long-range development plan, including its plans to enroll 15,000 students by 2005. Enrollment will be capped at that figure, he said.

Winning agreement for that cap from the university system's Board of Regents had been tricky, he said, because UCSC has the largest campus in the system. Stevens noted that if UCSC were as densely built as UCLA, it could accommodate all the students currently in the entire UC system. He hastened to assure his audience, however, that no such plans were contemplated.

Stevens said competition for admission to UCSC is growing more acute every year. He said this year, UCSC received 12,000

applications for 1,800 openings in the freshman class. There were 3,000 applicants for 500 transfer-student openings, he said. Overall enrollment at the university increased by about 400 students this year, he said.

The increased student body and the increased staff to serve it will mean yet more dollars flowing into the local economy, he said. Meanwhile, the university made a historic first agreement to pay for improvements such as roads and sewers to help mitigate the negative effects of its growth.

Stevens repeatedly made low-key pitches for a proposed controversial eastern access road to the university, which would be built through the Pogonip open space on the outskirts of Santa Cruz. Stevens said several times during his speech that such a road would make life easier for people travelling from Mid- or South county to work or to events at UCSC.