School of Engineering - Vision

As founding Dean of the School of Engineering at UC Merced, my primary goal has been to build an engineering program that is worthy of being part of the University of California, standing tall with the (eight) other extraordinary Engineering programs within the system.

We strive to recruit top quality faculty that would establish an engineering school characterized by world-class research and education. These scholars have worked tirelessly to develop their own research programs and groups; to establish a strong foundational curriculum, course offerings, and framework for student success; and to create from scratch the physical and administrative academic infrastructure necessary upon which to build the 10th UC campus.

We have also assembled a very talented and equally committed staff that provide outstanding support necessary for the administration of the School and the success of our academic mission. In addition to, and clearly supportive of, this overarching goal of developing a strong research framework, my vision for the program has included five additional specific goals:

1. Establish a strong and sustainable foundation for student recruitment, retention, and success that will contribute substantially to the nation's dwindling technical workforce, and nourish future engineering research and development.
2. Build an engineering program that will serve as a model for diversity, representation, and inclusiveness within which our students, our faculty, and our staff can reach their highest potential.
3. Fulfill our commitment to the University of California in creating a framework for shared faculty governance based on administrative openness and collective decision making.
4. Fulfill our commitment to the region and the State in helping to bring improved economic development and educational opportunity to the California Central Valley.
5. Leverage fully the innovation of modern information technology to empower significantly the personal and professional productivity of our academic community.

Jeff R. Wright

Founding Dean of Engineering

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