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Health IT

June 06, 2008

First Six Sites Announced for Telemedicine Project in San Joaquin Valley

On Thursday, UC-Merced officials announced that six telemedicine centers in underserved cities in the San Joaquin Valley will have access to medical specialists at UC-Merced using videoconferencing and other technology to facilitate remote consultations, the *Stockton Record* reports.

Members of the Valley Telehealth Partnership will be able to use real-time video consultations with medical specialists in fields including dermatology, psychiatry, pediatrics, endocrinology and gastroenterology. More specialties are expected to be added (Goldeen, *Stockton Record*, 6/6).

The six partnering sites are:

- Castle Family Centers in Atwater;
- Mercy Hospital Family Care Clinic in Merced;
- National Health Services in Oildale;
- San Joaquin General Hospital in French Camp;
- Sierra Kings District Hospital in Reedley; and
- United Health Center in Kerman.

Maria Pallavicini, dean of natural sciences at UC-Merced, said the equipment should be installed at the sites by the end of the summer.

The project is being funded through a \$500,000 grant from AT&T, \$200,000 from the California Emerging Technology Fund and \$250,000 from the California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley (Patton, *Merced Sun Star*, 6/6).

The first six sites are expected to lay the groundwork for a larger regional project to improve access to medical specialists for the rural and underserved communities in the San Joaquin Valley (*Modesto Bee*, 6/6).

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