## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Oct. 21, 2011

CONTACT:

Scott Hernandez-Jason, UC Merced Office of Communications

Office: 209-228-4408 | Cell: 209-756-2368 | Email: shernandez-jason@ucmerced.edu

## UC Merced to Celebrate International Education Week

The week of on-campus events, Nov. 14 to 18, includes workshops, a screening of an award-winning film, storytelling and library exhibit

MERCED, Calif. — The Office of International Affairs at the University of California, Merced, will celebrate International Education Week Nov. 14 to 18, with a series of events to highlight the rich cultures represented on campus and in the Merced community.

International Education Week (IEW) was established in 2000 to help prepare Americans for a global environment by highlighting opportunities to study, learn, and exchange experiences from around the world. This is UC Merced's fourth year participating in the annual celebration. A list of events is available online.

## **Quick Facts**

- UC Merced will have a series of events from Nov. 14 to 18 to celebrate International Education Week
- This is UC Merced's fourth year participating in the celebration, which is meant to help prepare Americans for a global
- The theme for this year's week is "Celebrating One Human Family."

It's important for students to develop cross-cultural competency in their academic career to meet the challenges of the 21st century, said Rebecca Sweeley, director of international affairs at UC Merced.

"Whether by going abroad or pursuing global learning opportunities locally, students are able to expand their understanding of the world during their time with us," Sweeley said. "We hope UC Merced's IEW events will help foster a greater sense of global community on campus and in the community."

UC Merced's theme for the week is "Celebrating One Human Family." The week is also meant to encourage a greater awareness of other people, other countries, world affairs and their influence on everyone's lives.

UC Merced's events will provide opportunities for international students and scholars to celebrate their countries and cultures and for the campus community to share global learning and research experiences. Each day of the week will feature a variety of activities in addition to an award-winning film, travel abroad experiences and an ongoing exhibit at the Leo and Dottie Kolligian Library.

The Office of International Affairs is inviting submissions from community members for events or lectures that relate to this year's theme. The deadline for submission for inclusion on the IEW website and promotional fliers is Nov. 4.

For more information or to submit an event proposal, please visit the <u>website</u> for International Education Week.

###

UC Merced opened Sept. 5, 2005, as the 10th campus in the University of California system and the first American research university of the 21st century. The campus significantly expands access to the UC system for students throughout the state, with a special mission to increase college-going rates among students in the San Joaquin Valley. It also serves as a major base of advanced research and as a stimulus to economic growth and diversification throughout the region. Situated near Yosemite National Park, the university is expected to grow rapidly, topping out at about 25,000 students within 30 years.