# PRINCIPLES *of* COMMUNITY

The University of California, Merced is a public, land-grant institution created to serve the communities of the San Joaquin Valley, the State of California, the nation, and the world through excellence in education, research, and public service.

These principles reflect our ongoing efforts to increase access and inclusion and to create a community that nurtures lifelong learning and growth for all of its members. Every member of the UC Merced community has a personal responsibility to acknowledge, practice and join us in our collective pursuit of the principles listed below:

**We Recognize and Celebrate** the identities, values, and beliefs of our community.

**We Affirm** the inherent dignity and value of every person while cultivating a campus climate rooted in mutual respect and compassion.

**We Uphold** the right to freedom of expression and encourage a culture of dialogue, understanding, and civility in all interactions. We seek to create a campus where a rich tapestry of ideas is shared, collaboration is embraced, and innovation is promoted.

**We Pursue** excellence in teaching and learning through contributions from all community members fostering a culture of open exchange.

**We Promote** opportunities for active participation and leadership in our communities.

**We Champion** civic engagement, environmental stewardship, research, and teaching that connects theory and practice to learning and doing.

**We Take Pride** in building, sustaining, and sharing a culture that is founded on these principles of unity and respect.