

# THE MADDY INSTITUTE FORMS UNIQUE PARTNERSHIP WITH THE SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY'S FOUR PUBLIC UNIVERSITIES

FOCUS ON EFFICIENCY

*The Maddy Institute and the San Joaquin Valley's four public universities have come together in a first-of-its-kind partnership to participate within one institute, an effective and efficient way to share the costs and attain economies of scale. The partnership also supports the development of the next generation of government and civic leaders in California and educates the community about the region's public policy.*

In August 2019, The Maddy Institute signed a groundbreaking agreement with the San Joaquin Valley's four public universities – CSU Bakersfield, Fresno State, Stanislaus State and UC Merced – to share the same public policy/public affairs institute. This first-of-its-kind collaboration is an effective and efficient use of taxpayer dollars as it provides the administrative function of an institute at a fraction of the cost of individual institutes at each campus.

This shared endeavor benefits students, faculty and public policy decision-makers, and advances the community's understanding of public policies across the San Joaquin Valley. Importantly, the agreement supports development of student skills and experience, shaping the next generation of regional government and civic leaders.

The collaboration also provides federal and state-wide elected officials and various media outlets with a central point of contact to access the region's four public universities, students and faculty in addition to the four million residents in the eight counties of the San Joaquin Valley.

The Maddy Institute was created with a \$1 million endowment in 1999 by the California legislature and named in honor of public servant and State Sen. Ken Maddy. The institute's mission is to "inspire citizen participation, elevate government performance, provide nonpartisan analysis and assist in providing solutions for public-policy issues important to the region, state and nation."

## MILESTONES

May  
2017

- Collaboration concept is presented to The Maddy Institute's board of directors.

Dec  
2017

- Discussions begin with the leadership at CSU Bakersfield, Fresno State, Stanislaus State and UC Merced.

May  
2018

- Memorandum of understanding is drafted.
- The Maddy Institute board of directors approves adding a representatives from each campus to its membership.

Dec  
2018

- Tentative agreement is established among all four campuses regarding the memorandum of understanding.

May  
2019

- Legal departments complete review of the memorandum of understanding.

Aug  
2019

- Official announcement is made and signing ceremony conducted with the four university presidents and chancellor.

## QUANTIFICATION AND RESULTS

Each partner university contributes \$10,000 a year to the program, and the collaboration provides all the benefits of a public policy institute without any of the upfront costs. It would cost each campus an estimated minimum of \$300,000 annually to maintain their own individual institutes.

## IMPACT AND BENEFITS

### Student Experience

- University students have greater access to The Maddy Center's leadership programs in addition to the annual legislative internship scholarships (totaling \$75,000) that the center provides for opportunities in local legislative offices, Sacramento and Washington, D.C.; student applications to these leadership programs have increased more than 25 percent.
- Partner universities contribute \$10,000 a year to the partnership, and 90 percent of that is earmarked for legislative internship scholarships for each individual university's students.
- The institute's agreement with Pepperdine University allows Maddy legislative intern alumni to attend the university's Master in Public Policy program with a full or partial scholarship based on undergraduate GPA.

### Faculty Research

- Within the institute, faculty may coordinate with others among the partner universities for research and funding on issues specifically impacting the San Joaquin Valley and the state. This leverages the intellectual resources of the four universities with the goal of providing public and government officials with empirical support for the most effectual public policy initiatives.

### Community Education

- With the growth of the partnership, citizens and public officials have greater access to cutting-edge research as they address the region's myriad challenges with limited dollars.
- Faculty on all four campuses are guests on the institute's various public-affairs media platforms, such as the weekly "The Maddy Report" television public affairs program and "Valley Views" radio program and podcast. The Maddy Daily, a news aggregator reaching more than 11,000 subscribers, and "El Informe Maddy," the only weekly Spanish language television program in California exclusively focused on state and regional public policy issues, are also vehicles for faculty to provide the public with fact-based analysis of the valley's pressing issues.

## PROJECT TEAM

### Mark Keppler

Executive Director, The Maddy Institute

### Maria Jeans

Program Coordinator, The Maddy Institute

### Lynnette Zelezny

President, CSU Bakersfield

### Michel Lukens

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### Joseph Castro

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### Larry Salinas

Executive Director of Governmental Relations, Fresno State

### Dorothy Leland

Former Chancellor, UC Merced

### Nathan Brostom

Interim Chancellor, UC Merced

### Cori Lucero

Executive Director of Government and Community Relations, UC Merced

### Ellen Junn

President, Stanislaus State

### Neisha Rhodes

Director of Presidential Initiatives, Stanislaus State

## LESSONS LEARNED

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Learning as you go is important. This partnership is likely the first in the nation to attempt one public policy institute affiliated with four universities, and it's imperative to be open and able to absorb procedures and outcomes as they develop along the way.



From left, CSU Bakersfield President Lynnette Zelezny, The Maddy Institute Executive Director Mark Keppler, Fresno State President Joseph Castro, UC Merced Interim Chancellor Nathan Brostrom and Stanislaus State President Ellen Junn.

## FURTHER REFERENCES

Please visit the [Maddy Institute website](#)