

**Group Work**  
**SNS Long Range Planning Workgroup**  
**Feb 5, 2020**  
**Topic: Vision Brainstorm**

**Prompt #1**

**What's Your Purpose?**

**What's Your Cause?**

**What's Your Belief?**

**Why Does Your Organization Exist?**

**Why Do You Get Out of Bed in the Morning?**

**Why Should Anyone Care?**

Response 1

- unlock the secrets of the universe
- connect the science of the very small with that of the (very) large
- I believe that we can use the discoveries we make along the way to improve, technologies, process and life overall
- I'm interested to see what view I can make happen or can move forward
- to help transform and advance this \_\_\_\_\_

2

- I'm inspired by our students
- I think science is fascinating and I want to help others see that beauty
- I think quality education is a fundamental right that should be available to everyone

3

- (why our organization exists)-our graduate program aims to mentor the next generation of computational and data scientists for a well-trained and diverse workforce.

4

- (why soil?) it is very ordinary and common yet it is also complex and mysterious. Life and our existence depend on it. I \_\_\_\_\_ to understand how it works
- (why LES?)-life, its existence, diversity, evolution, \_\_\_\_\_ are shaped by and continuously shapes the environment

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- (what is your purpose?)-scientific discovery
- (what's your cause?)-to have a positive impact on our planet
- (what's your belief?)-the scientific method
- (why does your org exist?)-to educate about and discover the natural world

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-(why do you get out of bed?)-to contribute to the advancement of science  
-(why should anyone care?)- science is the foundation for existence of life, the universe and everything

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-Innovators in research and education  
-take fresh approaches to world's intellectual and societal challenges  
-serve as engine of social mobility by disseminating knowledge

8

-(what's your cause?)- mathematics is a beautiful area of research, and this thing of beauty can be found everywhere

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-(why?)-to give the next generation of scientists a means to discover new ideas to make their mark on the world.  
-the world (nature) is a wondrous place. There is so much to discover. Let's discover.  
-I am driven to make the world a "better place". Knowledge and inquiry = science. We need science to understand the natural world.

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-(researcher)-water is a fundamental right. We need to have it for future generations. The central valley is facing water problems that are a microcosm for global water problems and their solutions can be translated throughout the world as the human population grows and affects climate change  
-(why does your org exist?)-The UC was developed to educate students and leaders to solve problems and to translate our knowledge to help California and the world.  
-(why should anyone care?)-we have been given opportunities and we should give opportunities to future generations

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-as SNS we develop knowledge and tools that enable society to function, to manage its resources and to enjoy healthy and sustainable growth and development

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-to illuminate how the natural world works  
-to use that knowledge to better preserve and manage natural resources  
-to inspire students to explore and think about the mysteries and problems of the world creatively  
-to spread knowledge of natural world and why it matters to society more broadly

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Why do we exist?

-a research university has a special role in education that goes beyond simple textbook/online learning and access to such an education should be a universal right

Belief

- education is the only universal solution to the problems facing our world

Purpose

- to build a UC campus accessible to groups that did not historically have access to other UCs

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-education is transformative to people's lives

-discovering something new (and possibly useful) is invigorating

-it's exciting to see the university grow and evolve

-we need a well-educated population to solve society's problems

### **Prompt #2**

**Why did you choose UC Merced?**

**What gets you excited to come to work?**

Response 1

-(why UC Merced?)-opportunity to build an institution that will continue to impact the world after I leave

2

-an opportunity to build academic and research programs from scratch.

-a potential for dramatic impact locally and globally

-ability to implement my vision of equitable, high quality education programs

-freedom in conducting relevant collaborative and interdisciplinary research

3

-I have blind faith in the UC system that UCM would ultimately become a success and I wanted to be here at the start

4

-(why come to work?)-because even 17 years in, most of my time is still spent creating new, exciting things and not just fixing old problems

5

-(why UCM?)-opportunity to build a new university from literally an empty field that would provide a first class university education to groups historically excluded from this opportunity

6

-(why did you choose UC Merced?)-wanted to help build the first research university in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. I will have made a more lasting impact than my individual science and technology

-(what gets you excited to come to work?)-new scientific discovery and instilling that excitement in my students, colleagues and community.

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- excitement to build a university in a region very much similar to where I grew up
- it is different every day
- students coming with all kinds of questions that one doesn't expect
- there's always something to learn
- love the creative environment

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- (why UC Merced?)-interdisciplinary "home for the homeless"
- potential impact on area
- (what gets you excited?)-research with students
- collaborative projects w/colleagues
- Developing new ideas for training and mentorship
- being able to sit in a room with all of you

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- working at a new UC, having a career in research and make a difference on a new institution
- embark on an adventure to advance the frontiers of knowledge and bring students along in the adventure

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What's exciting about coming to work?

- new discoveries and observations (things maybe no one else has seen)
- opportunity to share enthusiasm for science with students
- opportunity to open door to science or provide mentorship to students who might otherwise not see themselves as scientists
- always building something new as part of a growing school

Why UC Merced?

- change to part of something new and growing
- dynamic and collegial atmosphere
- diverse student body and department faculty
- research focus and support (UC) but in a smaller setting (town and school)
- feeling of being able to influence things positively more than at a larger, more established, institution

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Why UC Merced?

- location (CA, agriculture)
- family friendly policy
- room to grow and create

What's exiting about coming to work?

- students
- excitement of doing research

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Why UC Merced?

- a chance to develop a university that embraces a multidisciplinary approach to \_\_\_\_\_ and creation of new knowledge

What's exiting about coming to work?

- watching students develop the tools to improve and sustain the natural and man made systems
- continual education and discoveries
- colleagues

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Why UC Merced?

- it chose me but I have made the most of the opportunity

What's exiting about coming to work?

- the unpredictability of the day, hoping that its better than the day before
- to do better than the day before
- to so some science including helping my students
- watching my students grow academically

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Why UC Merced?

- I have never been employed at an undergrad campus. I felt I could contribute to the environment by my past experiences
- wanted the challenge

What's exiting about coming to work?

- I enjoy contributing to the learning and mentoring environment for both the faculty and students
- I get excited by sharing my passion for biology with my students

### **Prompt #3**

**Why Program X?**

**Why @UCM?** (What is distinct about our way?)

Response 1

Why CCB at UC Merced

- young, creative, highly motivated faculty
- small groups working closely with advisors
- opportunity to work with and train a diverse group of future chemists

-good location (nearby Yosemite, universities and research facilities)

2

Why CCB

-it's meant to inspire students who didn't know chemistry could be interesting and accessible to students denied the opportunity of strong high school preparation

3

Why CCB

-a young, dynamic program that is on an upward trajectory and is willing to experiment on new approaches in research and education and deeply committed to the success of students

4

-physics is the foundation of all experimental science and prepares you for a broad array of careers. UCM physics is personal and focuses on accessibility and interdisciplinary topics (no string theory)

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-unique opportunity to diversify the physics community  
-we can tap the hands-on talent of the region  
-give back to the region new job and technology perspectives that tie to those that have been traditionally and historically ...aviation, mechanics shops, bio/med, agriculture, biophysics, astrophysics, quantum materials, mining and minerals

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Why ES?

-we are facing a world with 10 billion people in 2050. ES creates students with interdisciplinary knowledge and multidisciplinary approach to sustainability.

WHY UCM?

-our backyard, the central valley, is a microcosm of global issues

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Why QSB?

-has the potential to be a flagship program at UC and across the nation.  
-true integration across scales and biological complexity using quantitative and data- driven approaches  
-very forward-thinking faculty and very integrative

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Why Bio/ESS at UC Merced?

-smaller student numbers = more changes for research, 1 on 1 interaction with faculty  
-ESS-small groups provide more integration

- BIO-multiple tracks to suit student interests
- UC Reserve on campus for field trips, research
- resources for student success (peer tutoring, help finding research, scholarships\_
- proximity to Sierra Nevada

#### Why ES?

- interdisciplinary group of faculty for support wide range of student research directions
- sustainability focus
- proximity to wide range of research sites
- support for grad students

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##### Why biology program at UCM?

- stellar faculty going cutting edge disciplinary and interdisciplinary research in the biological sciences integrated with first rate education of the next generation of biologists at an institution where the student population is reflective of the state

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##### Why AM at UCM?

- The UC Merced Applied Math program focuses on computational mathematics training to enable students to solve real world applications. This training is built on the 3 pillars of modeling, data and computing to prepare students for the 21<sup>st</sup> century workforce

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- our planet is experiencing change at an alarming rate. Predicting its future and understanding the options that we have to sustainability manager its future requires interdisciplinary effort that crosses traditional barriers
- LES provides this opportunity by bringing together scientists who deal with a wide range of basic and applied questions in life science and environmental science that take advantage of national labs in our location

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##### Why MCB?

- we didn't make biology, but our faculty make biology better because it's not traditional in learning or research.
- it's very unique experience that you will appreciate over time

#### 13

- we are the tool makers and tool trainers and tool users. AM develops mathematical and computational tools that help us and other researchers to study, to describe and to understand the world around. We are all inclusive and interdisciplinary combining traditional methods of applied math with novel techniques such as data science and working collaboratively with other scientific and engineering field.