1. Service Learning: Meeting UCSF’s vision for community partnerships includes meeting its primary goal of educating the next generation of doctors, nurses, dentists, pharmacists and other health professionals. Service-learning combines community service with explicit learning objectives, preparation to meet those objectives and reflection on the learning experience. It is an important part of meeting UCSF’s educational goals. There are also opportunities for service-learning by community learners at UCSF.

University Community Partnerships (UCP) is dedicated to the core principles and values behind service-learning in the health professions.*

A well-designed curriculum in service-learning:

- is developed, implemented and evaluated in collaboration with the community;
- responds to concerns identified by the community;
- attempts to balance the service that is provided and the learning that takes place;
- enhances learning by allowing the application of skills to real world situations; and
- provides opportunity for critical reflection.

Students engaged in service-learning: provide direct community service, learn about the context in which the service is provided, and reflect on their roles as health professionals and as citizens.

UCP provides resources, training and support to those looking to include service-learning components in their community partnerships, as well as enhance and enrich existing service learning programs.

*This information is summarized from Creating Community Responsive Physicians: Concepts and Models for Service-Learning in Medical Education, edited by Sarena Seifer, Kris Hermanns and Judy Lewis (Stylus Publishing, 2000). Further examples of service learning can be seen at: http://medschool.ucsf.edu/pathways/health_society/

2. Educational Outreach: UCSF has a long history of reaching out to the citizens of San Francisco. Whether it is partnering with schools to improve science education or partnering with health clinics to teach the elderly how to better manage chronic disease, UCSF faculty, staff and students have brought health information to the people of San Francisco, making a difference in their lives. Examples of educational outreach can be seen at: http://www.sf.ucsf.edu/outreach/examples.aspx

UCSF also values opportunities for its faculty, staff, and students to become better informed about local San Francisco communities, their needs, and their resources. The best way to learn about this is from people who live and work in those communities. One example of this form of community educational outreach includes community residents who have been willing to speak to UCSF classes about their communities or community-based organizations.
Another example is neighborhood tours that community residents have led for UCSF learners. University Community Partnerships (UCP) builds upon that solid foundation, working to enhance and expand those efforts by: serving as a clearinghouse for the health, science and education resources that UCSF has to offer the community and for the community expertise that local community residents have to offer UCSF, and determining educational needs and helping to meet them.

3. Community Based Research and Evaluation: University Community Partnerships (UCP) is committed to promoting a different model of research—one which empowers community members and community based organizations as active collaborators with UCSF researchers to bring the best of science to bear on real life health challenges. UCP believes that community members should be active participants in the pursuit of science, working alongside UCSF researchers to identify topics of mutual concern and to collaborate in the design, implementation and dissemination of research studies.

These types of collaborations:

- enrich the relevance and validity of scientific research by identifying important new areas of scientific inquiry;
- recruit study participants who are more representative of the nation’s diverse population; and
- enhance the application of research evidence to improve the public’s health.

UCP’s efforts to support community based research are closely linked with the Community Engagement Program (CEP) of the UCSF Clinical & Translational Science Institute (CTSI) http://ctsi.ucsf.edu/about/programs/ce. The CTSI is a major new NIH funded initiative to transform clinical research, including support for more community based research and greater community application of clinical research evidence. Examples of community based research can be seen at: http://www.sf.ucsf.edu/research/examples.aspx.

4. Workforce and Economic Development: UCSF is dedicated to cultivating a diverse workforce. Building on lessons learned from the Workforce and Economic Development Initiative and recent community focus groups, UCP will be targeting workforce development in the following areas:

- job readiness workshops
- skills development for healthcare employment
- general capacity building and staff development
- increased awareness of opportunities in the healthcare field
- career exploration activities

Examples of workforce development initiatives can be seen at http://www.sf.ucsf.edu/initiative/.

UCSF offers a wealth of opportunities for local residents and business owners and aims to positively impact the economic development of its surrounding neighborhoods, especially economically disadvantaged neighborhoods in San Francisco’s southeast sector. Examples of economic development activities include business oriented information activities for local residents, technical assistance for job developers, and business development for local vendors.