

April 2014

Valuing Diversity and Equal Opportunity

## Success Story: “Brown Bag” Lunch Celebrates Diversity in Fresno

**Contributor:** Elizabeth Villalobos, UCCE Fresno

On Friday March 7, 2014, Gurreet Brar, Ph.D. presented information on Punjabi heritage for the UCCE Fresno staff. Gurreet serves both Fresno and Madera counties as the Nut Crops Advisor. Born and raised in Punjab, North India Gurreet enjoys sharing information about his culture.

Gurreet discussed his idea with the UCCE Fresno AA Committee; working together they coordinated the one-hour “brown bag lunch” speaker session. About 20 staff persons attended and listened intently as Gurreet discussed Punjabi culture, farming practices, and the historical significance of the turban.

When concluding the session, the committee offered the opportunity to present topics in the same format to all UCCE staff. The goal is not only to become more culturally acquainted with our fellow co-workers, but we also hope to apply that understanding to the diverse communities served by UCCE.

The presentation was success. EFNEP Nutrition Educator and attendee Araceli Delgadillo stated, “It is important to experience a wide range of diverse cultures in order to learn from and appreciate the diversity that can be found within the communities we serve.” Staff was thankful to Gurreet and is looking forward to future “brown bag” presentations.



*Nut Crops Advisor, Gurreet Brar, Ph.D. Gave a Brown Bag presentation On Punjabi heritage for Fresno County staff on March 7, 2014.*



*Fresno staff at the March “Brown Bag”*

## ANR at the “Your Future is Now” Career & Internship Fair

The University of the Pacific’s Career Resource Center held a “Your Future is Now” Career and Internship Fair on March 19 this year and ANR was there.



*Views of the University of the Pacific campus*



Representing ANR at this job fair were Jamie Smith of the Staff Personnel Unit and David White from Affirmative Action.



*Jamie helps get the ANR table set up and ready.*

## Fresno "Brown Bag" Diversity Lunch (cont.)



*Nut Crops Advisor Gurreet Brar giving his presentation on Punjabi culture*



*Fresno staff pays attention and learns.*



## Job Fair at University of the Pacific in Stockton (cont.)

This annual University of the Pacific job/career fair is popular with both the students of the University and area businesses and educational institutions. Private businesses – of which there were many in attendance including several commercial vineyards – had a separate room. Educational institutions – i.e. school districts looking for future teachers, other universities and colleges looking for graduate students or future employees and (this year) ANR were all in another room close by.

The ANR team was able to introduce many job seekers to ANR and its mission as well as hand out many brochures with the ANR jobs website address.



*The ANR team is ready to go!*



*Jamie introduces a student to the world of opportunity in Cooperative Extension.*

