

[Dirks, Richmonders get down to business on global campus](#)

By [Barry Bergman](#), NewsCenter | December 15, 2014

BERKELEY — Chancellor Dirks in Richmond, speaking about the Berkeley Global Campus: “This has to bring prosperity for the community.” (UC Berkeley photos by Barry Bergman)

Some six weeks after unveiling plans for an ambitious new [Berkeley Global Campus](#) in Richmond, Berkeley Chancellor Nicholas Dirks met with civic leaders and city residents to hear their perspectives, and to reiterate — and reinforce — the campus’s long-term commitment to the community.

He also vowed to keep the discussion going and to work closely with city stakeholders as the project, still in its infancy, moves forward.

The lively lunchtime session took place on a stormy Thursday at the Richmond Field Station, at the edge of what campus and city leaders envision as a vibrant international hub for global education and research, and a catalyst for development of Richmond’s south shoreline.

“What we’re trying to do is to optimize the economic benefits of the Berkeley Global Campus,” City Manager Bill Lindsay said, speaking to a cross-section of city residents from the neighborhood level to the realms of politics, religion and labor. He described long-term plans for “a complete waterfront community” that would integrate new development with existing neighborhoods and businesses, with the global campus as the keystone.

“I think that the Berkeley Global Campus, in connection with planning for the southern shoreline, is the biggest economic development event since the shipyards in Richmond,” Lindsay said, a stretch that goes back to World War II. “And we want to make sure that it takes us literally through the next hundred years of good, positive growth for our community.”

Dirks, who came to Berkeley from Columbia University, recalled how leaders of that institution turned around a “terrible” relationship with its New York City neighbors, and how the school’s expansion generated new centers for neuroscience and the arts, short- and long-term local jobs and “a sense of celebration.” That experience, he suggested, can serve as a template for building the Berkeley Global Campus.

“The way in which we are going to proceed in this project,” Dirks said, “is going to be collaborative. It’s going to be a partnership.”

That spirit of cooperation set the tone for Thursday’s meeting, even as some Richmonders voiced concerns about displacement and gentrification once the new campus gets off the ground, and students and researchers come from around the world to work and live in the city.

Tamisha Walker, a longtime Richmond resident affiliated with the Safe Return Project, spoke of the need to provide Richmond’s youth — people like her 17-year-old son, “who didn’t apply to Berkeley,” and her 7-year-old, who shows a strong interest in science — with better access to college and the opportunities it can provide.

When she asked Dirks for a commitment to come back and “continue this conversation with the community,” the chancellor readily agreed.

Edith Pastrano, a Richmond native who graduated from UC Santa Cruz, described how she’d once been embarrassed by her city’s negative associations with high crime and poverty, and her pride in “how far Richmond has come.”

When Richmond was chosen to be the site of a second campus for Berkeley and Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, “I was overcome with joy,” she said. “But I was also overcome with the feeling of fear that this project could possibly displace me, my family and the community that I’m in.”

Donnell “Ricky” Jones, pastor and founder of New Direction Ministries, said his wife is a Berkeley graduate, and that the couple have a 10-year-old who hopes to attend. But “the low-income families of Richmond, and people of color, have been promised a lot of things that have never come to fruition,” he observed. “We just don’t want another one.”

“We feel that if Richmond is going to be better,” said Jones, “the question is: For whom?”

Dirks assured the speakers that he heard their concerns, and shared them.

“We have to be very concerned and careful not to do anything that would in any way displace the residents,” said the chancellor. “We want to create opportunities for residents, not move anybody away. And the pride with which you speak about the city, especially now, is important for us, because we want to share in that same pride.”

“This has to bring prosperity for the community,” Dirks said. “And if it doesn’t, we will have failed.”

<http://newscenter.berkeley.edu/2014/12/15/berkeley-global-campus-ommunity-meet/>

UC Berkeley Chancellor Nicholas Dirks hails planned Richmond campus as global university site

By Robert Rogers

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RICHMOND -- UC Berkeley Chancellor Nicholas Dirks vowed Thursday to work with the city to build a Berkeley Global Campus on the city's south shore that would draw talent from around the world to work on the scientific and health challenges of the next century.

Dirks' remarks were delivered at a luncheon at the university's Richmond Field Station -- the site of the proposed development -- that drew community, labor and business groups.

"Some of our most significant issues for the 21st century and beyond are going to be led right here," Dirks said, adding that his vision is for an "international, global branch campus at home" in the Bay Area.

The meeting was billed as an opportunity for Richmond community leaders and Dirks to discuss the university's major initiative to build a global research campus in Richmond.

The project, which does not yet have a construction date, has changed over the past two years from a proposed joint campus for Lawrence Berkeley Laboratory and UC Berkeley. In 2013, the lab lost expected U.S. Department of Energy funding in the wake of federal budget sequestration, leaving development plans for the Richmond Field Station in limbo and the city and the university to go it alone and hunt for private capital.

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The updated vision calls for a major expansion of UC Berkeley on land it has long owned in Richmond, with U.S. and international students joining scholars and scientists advancing knowledge in fields such as bioscience, health, energy development and data studies, Dirks said. The chancellor was adamant that funding challenges and modifications did not imperil the long-term prospects of the project, which could represent hundreds of millions of dollars in investment into the site.

"We don't fully know what is going to develop, but we know it's going to be here," Dirks said.

Along with its research mission, the campus will have a strong educational component, with both undergraduate and graduate-level academic programs for U.S. and international students, Dirks said, and have "robust" partnerships with local public schools.

City Manager Bill Lindsay, who shared some opening remarks, called the project the "keystone for development of the southern shoreline" and compared it to World War II-scale projects that turned the city from a sleepy fishing village to a diverse urban city. Lindsay said the campus and surrounding development would encompass 220 acres.

"This is the biggest economic development event since the (World War II) shipyards in Richmond," Lindsay said.

City documents dispersed during the meeting forecast a final environmental impact report and specific plan coming before the City Council in October 2015. Among the broad objectives the city wants in the project are street improvements, open space at the shore and transit-friendly development of surrounding commercial and residential buildings.

Community leaders said they hoped to see local hiring and procurement agreements, along with workforce development and training, as part of the project. Those details still must be ironed out.

"I don't want to say anything I can't deliver on," Dirks said. "But I'm committed to figuring this out together."

Dirks focused much of his remarks on putting the Bay Area at the forefront of a shrinking world's scientific and educational leadership and highlighting the assets in Berkeley and Richmond. He noted Richmond's ferry dock, which he said would help link the new campus with universities and talent in San Francisco.

Lindsay also highlighted the area's transportation infrastructure as well suited to helping integrate the Bay Area's financial and scientific resources.

Dirks, formerly of Columbia University in New York, paired New York City and Northern California as "places that are important to the world," and said the new campus in Richmond would be a magnet for talent from around the globe, particularly from China.

Dirks mentioned the Ebola outbreak in West Africa as an example of the types of challenges that could be overcome by research and applied sciences fostered at the Richmond campus.

"We will have some of the greatest young minds in the world" in Berkeley and Richmond, Dirks said. "And this will be a laboratory for global challenges."

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http://www.contracostatimes.com/west-county-times/ci_27118902/uc-berkeley-chancellor-dirks-hails-planned-richmond-campus

UC Berkeley Chancellor meets with Richmond community about Global Campus

By Alice KantorPosted December 12, 2014 2:00 pm

The Chancellor of the University of California, Berkeley, Nicholas Dirks, traveled to Richmond yesterday to meet with community stakeholders and city officials about the proposed new Global Campus.

Dirks assured Richmond that the economic benefits of the campus would be shared with the community. The project has raised concerns among the Richmond community as well as hopes.

Speaking Thursday at the Richmond field station, which will be the site of the new campus, the Chancellor reassured community stakeholders that his intentions were to involve the local community in the development of the campus and in the decision making process.

“It’s critical that we work together,” he said. “This has to bring prosperity for the community. And if it doesn’t we will have failed.”

Although the Global Campus is still likely years away from groundbreaking, the Chancellor said he was working on partnerships with universities from across the Bay and around the world for its development. These partners could include the University of California San Francisco, the Lawrence Berkeley Laboratory, and a Chinese university.

Richmond City Manager Bill Lindsay, who also spoke, welcomed the Chancellor’s plan. “This project is the biggest since the shipyards, we are going to make sure that it takes us to the next 100 years of economic growth.”

Lindsay said the development of the campus has the potential of creating 13,000 jobs for Richmond, 4,070 new housing units, and 145 acres of open space around the campus.

Originally a project of the Lawrence Berkeley Lab, the Richmond campus was put on hold this year as the Lab suffered budget cuts from the Department of Energy.

At that point, the University and the Lab had both committed to local goals of hiring, education and training opportunities for the Richmond community.

Before the University took over, community members started pushing the idea of a legally binding agreement, fearing the University, in the long haul, would not hold to its commitments.

This week the Chancellor did not commit to an agreement, saying that anything legal “requires legal people to be there,” but promised to come back two months from now to hear Richmond out. He committed to not signing any development agreement with a contractor before hearing the community’s recommendations.

“We don’t know what he’s going to do yet, but he seems open to hearing about the agreement,” said Aram Hodess, business manager of the Plumbers Union.

“He sounds promising,” said Cristina Hernandez, Executive Director of CCISCO, a local interfaith organization, “he’s becoming more familiarized and involved with our reality.”

But some community members struck a note of skepticism. “The low income families of Richmond have been promised a lot of things that have never come true,” said Pastor Donnell Jones of the New Hope Missionary Baptist Church. “We just don’t want another one.”

<http://richmondconfidential.org/2014/12/12/uc-berkeley-chancellor-meets-with-richmond-community-about-global-campus/>

[Berkeley Global Campus: a new, bolder vision for Richmond Bay](#)

By [Public Affairs](#), UC Berkeley | October 30, 2014

BERKELEY — The shoreline site of the proposed 134-acre Berkeley Global Campus at Richmond Bay

Chancellor Nicholas Dirks laid out an “unabashedly bold” new vision for UC Berkeley’s Richmond Field Station on Wednesday, telling faculty members of plans to remake the site as a global campus and “living laboratory” in partnership with public universities from around the world, as well as with private industry.

In a presentation to the Academic Senate, Dirks unveiled the outlines of the proposed Berkeley Global Campus at Richmond Bay, a reimagining of what was originally planned as a joint “second campus” for Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory and UC Berkeley. In 2013, the Lab lost expected U.S. Department of Energy funding in the wake of federal budget sequestration, leaving development plans for the Richmond Field Station in limbo.

But it also opened the door to the Berkeley Global Campus, or BGC, which Dirks on Wednesday called “a transformational model for expansion of our educational and research activities in a global context.”

“We have the opportunity to become the first American university to establish an international campus in the United States, right here in the East Bay,” he said. Instead of planting the UC Berkeley flag in a foreign country — the standard “export model” for global universities — BGC would be “a new form of international hub where an exclusive group of some of the world’s leading universities and high-tech companies will work side-by-side with us in a campus setting.”

Along with its research mission — similar to that previously envisioned for the Richmond Bay Campus — BGC will have a strong educational component as well, with both undergraduate and graduate-level academic programs for U.S. and international students. Programs would be aimed at giving students the tools “to tackle global challenges through a curriculum centered on global governance, ethics and political economy, cultural and international relations,” as well as “direct involvement in special projects with global implications and applications.”

And despite the new vision, “One thing that hasn’t changed regarding plans for the Richmond campus is our commitment to the community,” added Dirks, vowing to make BGC “a catalyst for developing the city’s south shoreline into a vibrant mixture of high-intensity light industrial, commercial and residential uses.”

‘Back to the drawing board’

In his California Hall office, Dirks recalled how “we had to go back to the drawing board” when federal funding fell through as he was arriving on campus to take over as chancellor. With UC Berkeley taking over leadership of the project from LBNL, he set up a high-level committee to explore other options, which led back to an idea he’d highlighted in his inaugural address: that of a global campus.

But joint campuses in other countries are subject to limits on academic freedom, both for faculty and for students, Dirks said, which is one important reason to have a branch 10 miles — as opposed to 10,000 miles — from the main Berkeley campus.

Chancellor Dirks' [full presentation](#) to the Academic Senate (as prepared)

In other parts of the world, for instance, “If you have academic freedom on campus, does that you mean you have it in a classroom, in office hours, in a seminar?” he asked. “What if you go and have coffee with your professor off-campus? Is that ‘off-campus,’ or is it an extension of the campus experience? Do you have complete access to the Internet? Does it mean everything you post on the Internet — even if the Internet is a controlled platform for exchanges between and among the members of a classroom — is protected? What kinds of things could you potentially advocate for?”

“We talk about a branch campus affording a ‘safe harbor,’” said Dirks, noting that U.S. universities with beachheads in mainland Asia and the Middle East experience “considerable anxiety” when presenting themselves as islands of academic freedom. “Well, this is a safe harbor in a safe harbor.”

Secondly, Dirks said, the proximity to Berkeley “allows real interaction, collaboration, participation — in both directions — for faculty, students and even staff to develop things that don’t require the first conversation always to be, Who’s going to get the airfare?”

The third key reason for BGC is “location, location, location,” he said, drawing an analogy to “the New York experience,” in which then-Mayor Michael Bloomberg enticed a stellar group of research institutions to compete for the chance to build an engineering campus on Roosevelt Island, which lies just off Manhattan in the East River.

BGC is “not a collaboration with the city, but with the university,” Dirks said, “but it’s in a location that’s attractive to people both nationally and globally.”

Global vision, community benefits

Yet even as he stressed the lure for academic and corporate partners, Dirks reaffirmed the central importance of the project to the local community, as laid out in a [joint letter of commitment](#) he and LBNL director Paul Alivisatos issued in April. The ongoing nature of that local partnership was reflected in comments by two prominent Richmond leaders, both of whom serve on a diverse working group comprising leaders from the City of Richmond, advocacy groups, business, labor and education.

“As a member of the working group established to advise the university on this new project,” said Jim Becker, president and CEO of the Richmond Community Foundation, “I know that many civic and community leaders are ready to partner with Chancellor Dirks to bring the community benefits in the Joint Statement of Commitment to Richmond to life.”

Bill Lindsay, Richmond’s city manager, lauded Berkeley’s continuing interest in developing “an internationally respected campus on Richmond’s southern shoreline,” as well as its

“commitment to partner with Richmond to bring broad economic and social benefits to the community.”

“We look forward,” Lindsay said, “to Richmond, Calif., becoming an international hub for education, collaboration and global citizenship through one of the most respected universities in the world.”

“One thing that hasn’t changed... is our commitment to the community.”

– Chancellor Dirks

Dirks said “active and serious discussions” are taking place with potential partners and investors.

“Since we began to develop this new plan after the May regents meeting — and that’s really when it started — we’ve already experienced the growth of phenomenal interest in being part of this,” he said. Expressing confidence that “this will happen,” he likened the process to UCSF’s Mission Bay project in San Francisco, which only got rolling after a settlement with the biotech company Genentech provided \$50 million toward the construction of its first building.

Terezia Nemeth, BGC’s development manager, played a pivotal role in bringing Mission Bay to life, first as a special assistant to then-San Francisco Mayor Willie Brown and later as a vice president with Catellus, that project’s commercial developer. She agreed the Berkeley project could follow a similar pattern, albeit with one important difference.

“If we had the kind of money that UCSF had at the time — if we had the ability to get money, say, from a donor or from the state to build a building — we could start creating the Berkeley Global Campus right now,” Nemeth said. “The problem is that we don’t have access to that capital, so we need to depend on partners to help us with bringing capital to the table.

“We have the land, we have the entitlements, and we have the intellectual wherewithal, the brain trust. But we need investment,” she said. “So, really, we’re down to the money. We just need that initial source of funding to get it started.”

Dirks, for his part, emphasized the potential returns — academic, economic, cultural and otherwise — from what is still an evolving vision for the Berkeley Global Campus.

“It’s not just the right thing to do,” he said. “It’s going to bring huge opportunities to the campus, and to Northern California. It’s going to make real a global connectivity, and it’s going to make it real for our students and our faculty. It’s going to bring resources to campus, and it’s going to open up global resources to people from our campus in ways that no other model, I think, would stand a chance of coming close to replicating.

“We’re not getting money from the state to build a campus,” Dirks said. “So we’re finding new ways to raise money for activity that’s going to permeate the campus.”

<http://newscenter.berkeley.edu/2014/10/30/berkeley-global-campus/>