



MASTER OF SCIENCE IN ECONOMICS

THE CALIFORNIA LUTHERAN UNIVERSITY GRADUATE BUSINESS PROGRAMS

CLU partnered with the Center for Economic Research and Forecasting (CERF) to develop a curriculum that is highly applicable and provides close collaboration with CERF economists and faculty.

PROGRAM FEATURES INCLUDE:

- Applied economic concepts, theory and applications
- A world-class economics faculty
- Hands-on experience in CLU's Center for Economic Research and Forecasting

CERF Director Bill Watkins will present the Ventura County Economic Forecast on February 17. To attend this event, visit www.clucrf.org/events.



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THREE CONVENIENT LOCATIONS: THOUSAND OAKS, OXNARD AND WOODLAND HILLS

Wesely Thomas lays foundation for region's tech and health care

Wesely Thomas has built a niche for itself along the Highway 101 tech and health care corridor by kicking up as little dust as possible.

The Thousand Oaks-based general contractor recently landed a contract to build new labor and delivery facilities at Valley Presbyterian Hospital in Van Nuys. For years, it has worked for some of the biggest names in health care, technology and biotech in Ventura County, including Teledyne Technologies and Amgen.

The Wesely Thomas secret? It knows how to work in highly regulated, sensitive locations such as hospitals, research laboratories and computer chip plants, where clean construction and minimal disruption to patients and tenants are essential.

"We are very well adapted at working within those confines and protecting the patients during construction," project manager Matthew Burns said.

Carl Wesely started the company in 1987, initially doing work for GTE Corp., the former telecom giant. He quickly realized that there was a need for construction firms that could cater to semiconductor companies, medical offices, wealthy individuals building their dreams homes — even The Getty Center in Los Angeles, which needs clean construction around its art exhibits.

Wesely Thomas' specialization has helped it to weather the real estate storm. Hospitals still need seismic retrofits, taxpayer-funded projects carry on, and corporate giants such as Amgen don't just abandon projects already in the pipeline.

"We stick with the high-tech, regulated industries. We won't do housing, we won't do retail. That's where we weren't really affected by the general economy," Burns said.

The firm has 29 employees and is still growing, said Patrick Behrens, the company's director of business development.

ARCHITECT SELECTED

California's judicial branch has tapped a Santa Monica architecture firm to design the new \$152 million criminal courthouse

planned for Santa Barbara.

Moore Ruble Yudell has done work on the federal courthouse in Fresno, the Darling Law Library at UCLA and the U.S. Embassy in Berlin. The courthouse is still in the site selection phase and is scheduled for completion in late 2015.

CENTRAL COAST SUFFERING

Lee & Associates Central Coast provided some market data for this week's check-up on the northern half of the Tri-Counties.

As of January, the San Luis Obispo County and Santa Maria areas had some 5.1 million square feet of available space on the market, with northern Santa Barbara County feeling the pain most acutely.

San Luis Obispo County's industrial and office vacancy rates are hovering around 13.3 percent and 12.1 percent, respectively. Retail is faring slightly better, with an 8.5 percent vacancy rate countywide, but it depends on where you look: San Luis Obispo's retail vacancy rate is 5 percent, while Atascadero and Templeton's is 14.6 percent.

Paso Robles is suffering most on the industrial front, with 15.5 percent vacancy.

All of Santa Maria's markets are suffering. The city has a 13.3 percent industrial vacancy rate, 16.6 percent retail vacancy, and 2.6 percent office vacancy.

DEALS OF THE WEEK

• **The Hutton Foundation** has purchased the Anacota Plaza building in downtown Santa Barbara for \$11.5 million. The property at 602-612 Anacapa St. will become the new home of Antioch University.

• **Fresh & Easy Neighborhood Market** purchased a 52,200-square-foot parcel at 1401 W. Gonzales Road in Oxnard, Hagelis Group announced. Fresh & Easy, which bought the property for an undisclosed amount, already has two Oxnard stores. Rob Devericks of Hagelis Group represented the seller.

• **Marlize van Romburgh** can be reached at mvr@pacbiztimes.com

CORRECTION

• The Vital Signs column in the Feb. 4 edition misstated some data about the Port of Hueneme. The port took in 100,953 tons of liquid fertilizer in 2010. Its automobile imports come from Japan, Europe and Korea.

FOR SALE

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30 Unit - \$5,100,000

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