



Oakdale Police News Release

For Immediate Release

Contact: Kara Guevara / Janeen Yates (209) 847-2231
Release Date: Wednesday, March 2, 2022
Case Number: OP21-3400

UC MERCED EMPLOYEE ARRESTED FOR TARGETING AND SENDING SEXUALLY EXPLICIT PHOTOS TO CHILDREN

Investigators Asking Any Potential Victims to Come Forward

Oakdale, CA – Oakdale police investigators have arrested a 21-year-old man for sending obscene photos to underage children with the intent to engage in sexual acts. The UC Merced Police Department started the investigation, but contacted Oakdale PD after learning that the victims lived in Oakdale. After conducting the investigation that began in 2021, Oakdale PD officers went to the campus to arrest the suspect, but he failed to show up to work. Oakdale PD officers and Merced PD officers went to his house where he was located and arrested. David Michael Yaranon, had contacted multiple victims online. Once Yaranon learned that the victims were children, he sent them sexually explicit photographs. The victims, from the Oakdale area, did not meet with Yaranon in person.

Investigators have learned that the three victims are between the ages of 13 to 15 years old. Currently, investigators are working to determine if there are additional victims. We are asking anyone who may have been contacted by Yaranon to reach out to our investigators at (209)847-2231.

Yaranon is charged with Annoying or Molesting a Child Under 18 years of Age, Showing or Sending Harmful Material to Seduce a Minor and Contacting a Minor to Commit a Felony.

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