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UC Merced professor earns presidential award

UC Merced School of Engineering Professor Shawn Newsam, 39, was recently awarded the Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers for his interdisciplinary research. At UC Merced, Newsam's work includes collaborating with air pollution scientists using computer vision to monitor Central Valley air pollution.

He was also nominated for the award due to his role in developing the school's Computer Science and Engineering program.

Newsam was presented the award in Washington D.C. during a ceremony in early November with President George W. Bush. The award is the highest honor for young scientists and engineers awarded by the U.S. government. He is one of eight scientists to receive the award this year.

-- Victor A. Patton