

UC Davis Student Affairs

Advancing Student Success and Equity for All Aggies





A Message From the Vice Chancellor

Students are the heart of our university. Our foremost mission is to support their success—not only as learners, but as vital members of diverse communities, creative collaborators and tomorrow's change makers.

The Division of Student Affairs complements the classroom experience at UC Davis by providing a wide range of resources that support the whole student. From housing, dining, recreation and health care to tutoring, personal development and employment, our programs and services enrich all aspects of well-being and connect undergraduate, graduate and professional students with opportunities to nourish their potential and growth.

We are deeply committed to supporting the success of every Aggie. Throughout their UC Davis journeys, we work in partnership with students to provide the responsive resources and transformative services that help them realize their dreams. We are proud to lead the field of public higher education with innovative, inclusive and adaptive programs that serve as models of best practice.

As we look to the future, our vision is to grow and reinforce our networks of holistic support to foster a learning environment that equitably prepares all students for lives of fulfillment and impact. The partnership of alumni, donors, foundations and friends is key to realizing these goals and to unleashing student potential.

My own life—and perhaps yours, too—was transformed through the power of education. I am driven every day by the desire to pay forward the opportunities that were instrumental to my success. I invite you to join Student Affairs in our campaign to ensure that generations of Aggies can build a better world.

Sincerely,

Pablo Reguerín

Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs



A Bold Vision

UC Davis Student Affairs helps all learners—undergraduates, professional students and graduate scholars—find remarkable opportunities throughout their academic careers while supporting the unique identities, histories and ambitions they bring to UC Davis.

Student Affairs leads from the perspective that supporting the whole student supports the whole of society. Initiatives like our Special Transitional Enrichment Program (STEP) provide pathways into college life that enhance retention and pave the way for future academic success. We support many activities, community groups and social opportunities that help students find belonging, maintain well-being and identify their passions during the course of their

studies. Our specialized Student Success Centers, for example, provide welcoming spaces for students from a variety of backgrounds to develop strong connections and chart pathways toward the futures they envision. And through our Aggie Launch initiative and a range of other programs, we offer comprehensive career exploration at every stage, positioning all graduates to quickly launch meaningful careers.

As we pursue the most ambitious fundraising campaign in our history, we are guided by a clear and bold vision: To be a driver of student success that allows every Aggie to experience the full promise of a UC Davis education. Passionate philanthropists, alumni, friends and foundations will be critical partners in bringing this vision to life. Together, we can support student success at every level, now and for decades to come.



The Right Place at the Right Time

For more than 50 years, UC Davis Student Affairs has supported an ever-changing student population with the tools they need to thrive—personally, academically and throughout their lives. Today, our unique programs, innovative services, vibrant community centers and specialized initiatives support the success of more than 30,000 undergraduates as well as thousands of graduate students and postdoctoral scholars. We inspire students to shape well-rounded academic and personal journeys that prepare them to lead in a dynamic global community.

Student Affairs is uniquely positioned to drive lasting student success in every respect. And as the student body we serve becomes more diverse and more globally connected than ever before, now is a pivotal moment for us to lead the way forward as champions of educational equity and inclusive excellence.

Your partnership will catalyze our leap to the next level. Philanthropic support for Student Affairs' highest priorities will enable all UC Davis students to make the most of their higher education.

The UC Davis Difference

- No. 1 U.S. university for diversity and internationalization
- No. 1 best-value college for women in STEM
- No. 2 among U.S. public universities for student social mobility
- No. 3 among U.S. colleges doing the most for low-income students
- Ranked as the most sustainable university in the U.S.
- Among UC Davis undergraduates:
 - More than 60% are women
 - 40% are first-generation college students
 - More than 25% are Latinx or Chicanx
 - 23% are transfer students
 - 14% are international students
- 55% of undergraduates pursue two or more internships
- More than 80% of students who use our career services leave UC Davis with at least one job offer

UC Davis Student Affairs: A Landscape of Opportunities

Student Affairs supports universitywide programs, services and facilities that enrich the Aggie experience. There are many unique opportunities to make a powerful difference for our students, and we invite you to consider gifts to the areas that speak to your philanthropic passion.



Community & Belonging

- AB540 and Undocumented Student Center
- Asian Pacific Islander Retention Initiative
- Center for African Diaspora Student Success
- Center for Chicanx and Latinx Academic Student Success
- Cross Cultural Center
- Guardian Scholars Program
- LGBTQIA Resource Center
- Middle Eastern, North African, and South Asian Student Resources
- Native American Academic Student Success Center
- Transfer and Reentry Center
- Veterans Success Center
- Women's Resources and Research Center

Health & Wellness

- Campus Recreation
- Student Health and Counseling Services
- Student Disability Center
- Student Housing and Dining

Pathways To Success

- Academic Assistance and Tutoring Centers
- Aggie Compass Basic Needs Center
- Educational Opportunity Program (EOP)
- Special Transitional Enrichment Program (STEP)
- Student Recruitment and Retention Center

Student Life & Career Prep

- Associated Students of UC Davis (ASUCD)
- Center for Student Involvement
- Internship and Career Center
- Registered student organizations
- Sport clubs



Opening Doors and Transforming Lives: Campaign Giving Priorities

Student Affairs continually assesses the needs of our vast community of learners in order to best support comprehensive excellence. We have identified several high-priority areas where philanthropic investment will elevate our capacity to support every student's full potential, now and far into the future.

Your visionary partnership in reaching our campaign goals will strengthen initiatives that foster well-being, enhance equity and social mobility, and expand opportunities for experiential learning and career development—all powerful ingredients that prepare graduates for success in a global society.

We invite you to join us in:

Fostering Healthy Living and Wellness

Strengthening Equity and Inclusion

Propelling Change Makers in Every Field

Together, we can give every Aggie the tools to create a brighter tomorrow.

Fostering Healthy Living and Wellness

By expanding our robust networks of support, Student Affairs can ensure that all students have access to tailored resources that strengthen resilience and wellness, no matter what challenges they face. This includes support for maintaining mental, emotional and physical health; managing stress, financial and immigration concerns; and meeting the needs of neurodiverse students and students with disabilities.

Health begins with ensuring basic needs are met. In 2020, 44% of UC Davis students reported being food insecure and 18% said they experienced housing insecurity. The Aggie Compass Basic Needs Center and ASUCD Pantry are committed to providing emergency relief and accessible services

that support the basic needs of all students—laying the foundation for a successful UC Davis experience.

The ability to respond flexibly to changing needs is critical to serving our students. In 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic swiftly changed student life and learning—demanding a comprehensive response that prioritized health and well-being without compromising educational experiences. To support all Aggies during this unprecedented time, Student Affairs closely collaborated with student groups, scientific and practical experts, campus and community networks, state and federal governments, and committed philanthropists to model how a public university can strengthen community resilience during a major health and economic crisis.



Philanthropic Opportunities

Support a basic needs services endowment to guarantee that students' most essential needs are met for generations to come

LEAD GIFT: \$5 MILLION

Endow an embedded mental health and student support services position in a UC Davis college or professional school to ensure permanent support for critical roles

ENDOWED GIFTS STARTING AT \$2.5 MILLION

Fund comprehensive crisis-intervention training for all staff, faculty and student employees

GOAL: \$500,000, CURRENT-USE AND ENDOWED GIFTS



With the partnership of donors and local organizations, we trained and employed hundreds of student public health ambassadors to build community awareness, organized free rapid coronavirus testing for all in Davis, and enhanced essential services so that students with urgent basic needs were able to access food, housing, financial and mental-health support.



Basic Needs Are Academic Needs



Faith Oladimeji's family moved to California from Lagos, Nigeria when she was 13. It wasn't an easy adjustment at first—it was middle school, in a totally unfamiliar culture, with a language barrier. “No one could understand my accent, and I couldn't understand anyone,” she recalled. Her experiences cultivated a deep awareness of the range of forces beyond a student's control that can impact their ability to adjust and derail academic progress. This understanding drew Oladimeji to a position as an undergraduate student manager at the Aggie Compass Basic Needs Center, which works to mitigate the effects of food and housing insecurity. “Often students being placed on academic probation and getting off track for graduation are facing things like housing and food insecurity or having to work extra jobs to keep up with rent,” Oladimeji said. Connecting peers with resources and watching them walk out the door knowing they're going to be okay brings Oladimeji joy, and connects to the vision of holistic wellness that has motivated her to study medicine. Her advice to fellow Aggies is simple but profound: “If you need help, ask.”

The Power of Peer Support: Life-Saving Intervention



Kristian Whitten '70 recalls his UC Davis years as a time when he formed lasting friendships, but also struggled. Like many others, Whitten found his first year as a transfer student at UC Davis both exciting and isolating. Now retired from his career as an

attorney, he recently learned about the UC Davis Mental Health Initiative, a peer-support program created to share resources and train students to intervene when friends show signs of distress. “That really hit home,” Whitten said of the initiative’s mission. “With my family’s and my own experiences with suicidality, I’ve learned over time that there are indicators, and that kind of training can really spot these things and help.” Students in crisis are more likely to share their struggles with peers than with professionals, making student training critical to saving lives. Inspired by the Mental Health Initiative, Whitten established the We Aggies Care Endowment—a permanent fund that will provide ongoing support to train student volunteers in suicide prevention and how to help peers dealing with depression, anxiety or self-harm. “I’m a very proud Aggie, and I just want to make sure that the education and support resources are available to others,” Whitten said. “I’m more than happy to put what I can toward it.”



Beyond basic needs insecurity, many factors can challenge well-being and student success in higher education. Reported mental illness among UC Davis students is on the rise, and more students than ever are seeking treatment. Our most recent survey of undergraduates found that academics remain a top stressor, while anxiety, sleep difficulties and depression are also common. For the majority of our students, the experience of the pandemic exacerbated these problems. More than 80% surveyed during this time reported anxiety, and more than 60% said they were experiencing isolation, depression and trouble concentrating. These same students identified telemental health as the virtual service they would most like to receive.

We are dedicated to cultivating welcoming programs and spaces that reduce stigma and normalize asking for help to maintain mental health. Student Affairs staff and partners across the university's colleges, schools and communities of belonging closely coordinate to promote social networks, identify students at risk, increase access to effective services and help students develop life skills.

Our goal to create permanent lead counselor positions at UC Davis colleges and professional schools will broaden the reach of the Community Advising Network (CAN), making on-site case management accessible to all. Gifts that support training for faculty, staff and student employees in mental-health crisis response and prevention will equip members of our campus community to recognize warning signs and respond confidently in a crisis, preventing emergencies and saving lives.

In addition, we are prioritizing continual refinement of Campus Recreation services and facilities to fully accommodate students with disabilities and ensure equitable access to resources for total health.

We invite alumni, foundations and friends to partner with us in broadening the critical base of support that all Aggies need to live well and flourish.



Strengthening Equity and Inclusion

How a student feels about themselves and their sense of belonging are integral to how completely they can excel in the classroom, in their chosen professions and in the wider world. Creating inclusive and safe spaces for students to build community, cultivate confidence and identify their passions is one of the most important services we provide. The strong feelings of connection and identity that grow in these environments positively impact every facet of student development and success.

Community-based initiatives advance equity and inclusion by leveling the playing field for students of all backgrounds and valuing the unique cultures and perspectives they bring to the university. We are committed to enriching these launching pads for students who may have had limited access to opportunity prior to UC Davis. Those who have faced systemic barriers may need extra support to achieve, especially early in their education. Our Student Success Centers and Academic Retention Initiatives provide specialized services and foster supportive communities that honor the experiences of students who come from historically marginalized communities.



Philanthropic Opportunities

Support one of our community-based programs with gifts that ensure consistent core programming and specialized support for years to come

ENDOWED GIFTS STARTING AT \$2 MILLION; CURRENT-USE GIFTS OF ANY SIZE

Create an AB540 and Undocumented Student Center endowment to sustain staff and legal services supporting students who are establishing residency in California

\$2 MILLION ENDOWED GIFT



Students we serve through customized programming include those who identify as Chicanx and Latinx, Native American, Asian Pacific Islander, African American and from the African diaspora, as well as international students, first-generation students, transfer and reentry students, low-income students, LGBTQIA+ students, women, veterans and former foster youth.

The AB540 and Undocumented Student Center serves students who are facing barriers related to immigration and residency—whether they come to UC Davis from within the state or elsewhere in the nation or world—and facilitates access to the legal assistance that these students commonly need.

Donors can have a direct impact on removing financial and social barriers for students and propelling their success in college and beyond. **Philanthropic investment will expand and standardize core programming across our key centers and initiatives, strengthening the many services and programs that support equitable access to higher education for our students.**

Finding Belonging—and Academic Success

Before first-year classes had even begun, a Fall Welcome event put on by the Native American Academic Student Success Center (NAASSC) solidified **Dani Contreras'** sense that they had come to the right place. And when they ended their first quarter on academic probation, the support Contreras found at the NAASSC—known among students as “the Nest”—proved invaluable. “I started my Davis journey with a 1.29 GPA,” Contreras recalled. “I needed to revamp my strategy, because I initially took three upper division chemistry classes at the same time, and I realized that was not a great idea. So, I met with my academic advisor, I started participating in success coaching, and I started to just kind of take care of myself.” Now back on track academically, Contreras says they could not have made these critical changes alone. “The Native community helped support and encourage me to stay positive,” they said. “Sometimes we as students face challenges outside of academics and need to have a strong support system to help us through the tough times. This is essential to being successful at UC Davis.”



Propelling Change Makers in Every Field



Student Affairs is actively engaged in promoting professional development opportunities and preparing highly qualified graduates for the careers of tomorrow. Aggie Launch is our Big Idea to take this work to bold new heights. Led by Student Affairs' Internship and Career Center (ICC), **Aggie Launch models a revolutionary approach to career exploration in public higher education that advances equity and life outcomes for all students—while positioning our nation's increasingly diverse professional workforce to thrive over the long term.**

Career exploration while in school is critical to student empowerment and defining goals for the future. Our

data show that the earlier a student becomes involved with the ICC, the more likely they are to graduate with a career-track job in place. We can broaden this advantage to all Aggies by integrating clear professional development milestones into every educational pathway, whether a student's immediate goal is employment or entry into a graduate or professional program. Through Aggie Launch, preparatory programs tailored by area of study and academic year will pair with internships, co-ops, work study and other forms of experiential learning to ready every student to launch a career as soon as they graduate.

Philanthropic Opportunities

Support the Student Employment Initiative to sustain programs of supervisor training, advisor certification and student matching

GOAL: \$2 MILLION
ENDOWMENT; GIFTS
STARTING AT \$50,000

Fund career development stipends to support student access to a wide range of valuable opportunities

CURRENT-USE GIFTS
STARTING AT \$10,000

Enrich a broad range of career preparation activities through a gift to the Aggie Launch Excellence Fund

SEEKING CURRENT-USE
GIFTS OF ANY SIZE



Providing meaningful employment opportunities within the university, as well as targeted financial support to pursue unpaid career development activities, are key supplements that enhance equity for students whose financial circumstances require them to work while in school.

Student Affairs employs some 3,000 students across Housing and Dining, Wellness and Support, and Student Life. Community Advisors (CAs) living in student housing, for example, are part-time employees tasked with considerable leadership responsibility as resources to fellow residents and stewards of their peers' growth and development. Many more students hold jobs within and beyond the university.



The Aggie Launch Student Employment Initiative is designed to help working students gain maximum benefit from professional experiences and develop as leaders in the fields of their choice.

It will assist students in connecting skills gained in part-time jobs to professions of interest, empower university supervisors with the tools to support student career progression, and make valuable career development opportunities available to students with financial need through funding to compensate for reduced work hours and other costs.

Stipends for career development will support participation in a wide range of enriching but uncompensated activities like conferences,

The UC Davis Big Ideas are forward-thinking, interdisciplinary programs and projects that build upon the key strengths of our university to positively impact the world for generations to come.

poster sessions and academic competitions, as well as unpaid internships and research opportunities. In addition, the initiative will enhance existing campus jobs—for example, by adding formal certification for student trainers and coaches working for Campus Recreation—so that students earn tangible professional credentials alongside their university degrees.

Your support for Aggie Launch will add substantial value to the investments we have already made in reducing barriers to opportunity and enhancing preparation for life after UC Davis, helping all students build momentum to launch successful, fulfilling careers in a complex world.

A First-Generation Music Leader Envisions His Career Crescendo

Michael Petris follows his passions. After discovering his love for music in middle school, he was so inspired to make it his career that he became the first in his family to pursue higher education. “My two passions in life are music and people,” Petris said. Through his experiences on campus participating in the Video Game Orchestra and serving as an Orientation Leader for new students, the undergraduate music major found he has a knack for inspiring others as a collaborative leader who can facilitate group success. Orchestral conducting perfectly combines both of his passions. “Our job as conductors isn’t just to be a leader. Our job is to be accommodating and useful to musicians—to understand a group and work with the group to make good music,” he said. After Petris graduates, he plans to pursue a master’s degree in conducting. His dream future job would be leading the Berlin Philharmonic—one of the world’s top orchestras—though as an education minor and a believer in the value of teaching music to children, he’s also open to a career as a music educator. He credits the rich experiential learning opportunities and wealth of supportive resources at UC Davis for helping to crystallize his professional vision. As an Aggie, he said, “When you’re proactive, it’s impossible to not find your place!”





An Invitation

Thank you for considering a campaign gift to UC Davis Student Affairs. Your investment in our systems of student support will make a defining difference in just how far every Aggie can go. Together, we can empower students of exceptional promise to chart paths toward a greater future for all.

To discuss how your philanthropic vision can be realized through a gift to Student Affairs, please contact:

Jane Fortner

Director of Development,
Division of Student Affairs

Phone: 530-601-3414

Email: jefortner@ucdavis.edu



Ways of Giving

We respect that, for each donor who wishes to provide significant philanthropic support, there are personal, financial and gift planning aspects to consider. We will work with you to realize your philanthropic vision and develop the gift plan that best meets your needs. At your request, we can also work with your tax and financial advisors.

Following are various gift types and their associated benefits. You may wish to consider a mix of gift types to help you achieve both your philanthropic and financial objectives.

Cash Gifts

- Are the simplest and most popular giving method
- Can be tax deductible in the year they are given

Gifts of Securities

- Include stocks, mutual funds and bonds
- Can avoid capital gains taxes
- Can provide an income tax deduction for the full fair market value of long-term, appreciated securities

Gifts of Real Property

- Include land, farms, personal residences, and rental or commercial property
- Can avoid capital gains tax on appreciated assets
- Can provide an income tax deduction for the full fair market value of long-term, appreciated property
- Can eliminate property expenses and taxes
- Can provide continued use for life through a retained life estate gift

Bequests and Living Trusts

- Establish the UC Davis Foundation as a beneficiary of your estate
- Can provide an estate tax deduction equal to the value of the gift
- Offer flexibility by allowing you to provide for family first

Retirement Plan Gifts

- For current gifts, utilize the IRA Charitable Rollover provision (for donors aged 70½ and older)
- Name the UC Davis Foundation as a beneficiary
- Can eliminate income tax on the plan distributions
- Preserve the plan's full value for gift purposes

Life Income Gifts

- Include charitable remainder trusts and gift annuities
- Can provide potential tax savings on income, estate and capital gains
- Generate income for you and/or your loved ones for a fixed period of time or until your passing
- Distribute the remaining assets to the UC Davis Foundation

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