



What People Are Saying...



Mark G. Yudof

Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger

"The Regents have made a fantastic choice in selecting Mark Yudof to be the next president of the University of California. As one of the nation's most important and respected university leaders, Mr. Yudof has a proven record of great achievements. I am confident that his broad range of executive and academic expertise will serve the University and the people of California well."

Lt. Governor John Garamendi

"I believe his vision for the University addresses my concerns about affordability and access for California students, transparency and accountability in budgeting and quality of life issues for students, faculty and staff. He has clearly expressed his commitment to enhancing the University of California so that it can continue to be the intellectual and economic engine for the state of California."

State Senator Jack Scott

"I am impressed by the outstanding leadership that Mark Yudof has brought to two large university systems – the University of Texas and the University of Minnesota. I am confident that he will make a similar contribution to our UC system. As chair of the Senate Education Committee and the Senate Budget Subcommittee on Education Finance, I look forward to working with him."

U.S. Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison (TX)

"Over the years I enjoyed working closely with Chancellor Yudof on the many important issues facing our UT System campuses. Chancellor Yudof did a great job at Texas and will be a capable and dedicated leader for the University of California System."

Tom Craddick, Speaker of the Texas House of Representatives

"The University of Texas benefited greatly under the successful tenure of Chancellor Mark Yudof. Under his direction the university strengthened its academic credentials, boosted its scientific research facilities, and improved graduation rates. The University of California is fortunate to be receiving such a phenomenal leader."

Senator Judith Zaffirini, chair, Texas Senate Higher Education Subcommittee

"Chancellor Mark Yudof is a fearless administrator who faces every challenge with the determination required to overcome obstacles and to resolve problems. The University of California will be fortunate to have someone of Mark Yudof's caliber and intellect as its chief executive. Texans who care about higher education are grateful to him, and we will miss him."

UC Regents Chairman Richard C. Blum

"Chancellor Yudof is simply outstanding in the field. He has demonstrated superb leadership at the helm of another distinguished multicampus system, and his record of accomplishment in a lifetime of service to public higher education speaks for itself. We believe Mark Yudof, besides being a brilliant lawyer and a visionary president, also has had a history of being a good manager. After an intensive and thoughtful search, we have concluded that Mark Yudof is clearly the best candidate for the presidency of the world's leading public research university."

Michael Brown, chair, UC Academic Senate and UC Santa Barbara professor

"Chancellor Yudof brings strong leadership, a commitment to academic excellence and diversity, and a deep appreciation of shared governance. I believe the faculty will be pleased with his appointment."

Marye Anne Fox, chancellor, UC San Diego; former research vice president, UT-Austin

"Mark is an eloquent spokesman for higher education, a mentor to students and faculty, and a parent who sympathizes with the need to minimize barriers to college entry for students. He is a strong defender of academic freedom and shared governance with the faculty, and he places a high priority on building effective working relationships with state elected leaders. His attention to the importance of diversity and to the value of building aggressive inter-institutional collaborations also makes him well-suited to addressing the needs of the UC system."

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Charles B. Reed, chancellor, California State University

"Mark Yudof has proven himself able to manage a lot of different balls in air at the same time, while also providing steady, calm leadership. I can't think of anybody better for the job, and he will make an outstanding president for the University of California."

Diane Woodruff, chancellor, California Community Colleges

"I am looking forward to meeting and working with Mark Yudof on issues facing the UC and California Community College systems since one-third of UC graduates are community college transfers. I hope we can continue and improve upon this excellent transfer program which benefits so many of our students. Investing in public higher education is an investment in the state's most invaluable asset – its citizens."

Charles Miller, chair, U.S. Secretary of Education's Commission on the Future of Higher Education; former chairman, UT Board of Regents

"Not many people can do this job... He'll be a good fit. I think California's lucky to have him. He's one of the finest education leaders in the nation. There's not another person in America with his capacity and ability to do what needs to be done out there."

H. Scott Caven, Jr., chairman, University of Texas Board of Regents

"I can understand why the UC regents would seek out Mark Yudof. He is, without question, one of the most outstanding leaders in public higher education today."

Christopher Edley, Jr. dean, Boalt Hall, UC Berkeley

"Those who know Mark Yudof's record as a scholar, teacher, manager and leader are, to a person, simply jubilant. In the coming weeks, everyone will learn more exciting details: his early work on school reform issues with the Mexican American Legal Defense and Education Fund; the joy he gets in teaching freshmen; his wife Judy's leadership in the national community of Conservative Judaism; his visionary commitment to the public research university, and much more. And I'm beyond jubilant that he's accepted our unanimous offer to join Berkeley's Law faculty."

David Kirp, UC Berkeley professor, Goldman School of Public Policy

"Mark Yudof is an outstanding choice to lead the University of California — no one comes close. At both Texas and Minnesota, he has demonstrated a unique combination of commitment to academic values, skill at managing and restructuring complex institutions, and effective engagement with public leaders. These skills are critical to the success of chief executives in systems of public higher education today."

Robert Bruininks, president, University of Minnesota

"Mark Yudof is a superb choice for one of the nation's most important leadership positions in higher education. California's university system could not have chosen a more experienced, successful, creative and qualified leader."

Robert M. Berdahl, president, Association of American Universities; former chancellor, UC Berkeley; former president, UT-Austin

"With his background as former president of the University of Minnesota and as chancellor of the University of Texas system, Mark brings an extraordinary breadth of experience and success in leading major public universities and systems. I have known Mark for 15 years and he is one of the genuine national leaders of higher education."

Ricardo Romo, president, UT-San Antonio

"If he is not the best higher education person in the country, I don't know who is."

David E. Daniel, president, UT-Dallas

"He is a man of great intellect, fairness, sensitivity, and passion for higher education," said, in an e-mail. "He is always willing to listen to and consider input from students and faculty."

James Spaniolo, president, UT-Arlington

"I think he's ahead of the curve on lots of issues. He developed a system of accountability and measures for accountability even before they became a matter of common conversation around the country."

Steven Goode, law professor, UT-Austin

"He's probably the best academic administrator out there. He knows public higher education inside and out – he's bright, he's a skilled administrator (and) he works well with people."

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David Longanecker, president, Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education

“Major-university presidents are generally whining about how they need more funding. He doesn’t sound like a lot of leaders. He talks about finding ways to do the job more efficiently than in the past.”

Raymund Paredes, Texas commissioner of higher education and former UC professor

“He’ll do extraordinarily well. He is very bright. He has spent his whole career at top-flight research universities, which is absolutely critical at UC. UC is lucky to get a leader like Yudof. The University of California is in my mind the most prestigious public higher education system in the country, and what a way to end your career.”

Michael Olivas, University of Houston law professor specializing in higher education

“There is a very small pool of people who can do that job without having their credentials questioned, and Yudof is certainly one of them.”

Richard Pfitzenreuter, chief financial officer, University of Minnesota

“I think being that decisive and that self-directed and motivated is very refreshing in higher education. California just couldn’t be luckier.”

Larry Faulkner, former president, UT-Austin

“The California system leadership job is, I would have to say, the premier higher education job. It’s a very high profile job that has a special standing in American higher education. He has made a considerable effort to be nationally visible on the big debates in higher education.”

Terry W. Hartle, senior VP for government and public affairs, American Council on Education

“Mark Yudof is an inspired choice, and he is uniquely qualified to lead the University of California. This is a very big challenge, but the University of California is the most visible, most highly regarded public university system in the world. It is probably a challenge he really wanted to take on.”

Andrew Solomon, student association president, UT-Austin

“He does have a track record of trying to protect the cost of education. It is always a delicate balance between quality versus cost, and he recognizes that. He does very much have the students’ pockets in mind.”