FACT SHEET: The Importance of Pell Grants for University of California Students

Pell Grants Expand College Opportunity for Low-Income Students at UC
- At UC, nearly 80,000 students – 40 percent of all undergraduates and 46 percent of California undergraduates – received Pell Grants in 2015.
- UC enrolls more Pell Grant recipients than any comparable research university.
- Four UC campuses – Davis, Irvine, Los Angeles, and Riverside – each enroll more low-income students than the Ivy League institutions combined.

Pell Grants Lead to Success at UC
- Approximately four out of five UC Pell Grant recipients graduate within six years, at rates similar to non-Pell Grant recipients.
- Within five years of graduating, Pell Grant recipients typically earn incomes higher than their parents' combined income during the time the students attended UC.

Pell Grant Funding is an Essential Part of Student Support at UC
- In 2015, UC undergraduates received $377 million in Pell Grant funding, $820 million in state Cal Grant funds and $883 million in need-based scholarships and grants from UC's own institutional funds.
- Nearly half of UC students graduate with no student debt, and average borrowing for UC students is well below the national average.

UC urges restoration of year-round Pell Grants

Year-round Pell Grants Would Help UC Students
- Year-round Pell Grants would allow low-income students to receive Pell Grants throughout the entire year, including summer session.
- Year-round Pell Grants could help students accelerate their time to degree completion, while potentially reducing their overall educational costs.
- In 2011, when year-round Pell Grants were last available, more than 13,500 UC students received over $18 million in additional aid to cover their summer session.