
ADDRESSING CALIFORNIA'S MOST PRESSING ISSUES

UC's discretionary funds support its core mission and key issues facing California

The University of California operates in a dynamic environment where funds are often expended in response to emergent and critical events, along with internal and external demands. UC's Office of the President (UCOP) is no different; UC's headquarters not only manages core functions for the campuses, but also funds and coordinates key systemwide programs bolstering the university's fundamental missions of teaching, research, and public service — and addresses the most pressing issues facing California. The following three Presidential initiatives exemplify the expansive scope and tangible impact of systemwide efforts spearheaded by UCOP.

SYSTEMWIDE RESOURCES FOR UNDOCUMENTED UC STUDENTS

Launched by President Napolitano in 2013, the Undocumented Students Initiative provided campuses with \$5 million in annual funding for targeted financial aid, resources and services tailored to students' unique needs. In 2016, Napolitano made a multiyear commitment to the program, earmarking \$8.4 million per year over three years to expand financial, legal and student support services. The funding is divided among three priorities:

- UC's DREAM Loan Program receives \$5 million per year. The program makes student loans available to undocumented students, who are not eligible for federal aid. Students will repay their loans back into the DREAM Loan fund.
- \$2.5 million per year is allocated for student services staff coordinators and targeted undergraduate and graduate fellowships, as well as other financial support such as funds for textbooks
- UC's Undocumented Legal Services Center receives \$900,000 per year. Housed at the Davis School of Law, the program serves eight campuses. It provides, free of charge, access to an attorney, consultation on legal rights and protections, and assistance filing for applicable state and federal programs



“The students who seek the Center’s immigration services are nothing short of extraordinary. As children of primarily low-income, undocumented parents, they have overcome financial, educational and legal obstacles to arrive at UC. While at UC, they carry rigorous undergraduate and graduate course loads with the understanding that, in many cases, their families’ dreams for a better future rests with them. Today, this stress is combined with the overwhelming fear that they, their parents or their siblings may be deported. Their talent, persistence and belief in the future point strongly to their future leadership and contribution to California and the nation. Our support of these incredible students wouldn’t be possible without President Napolitano’s leadership and the support of UC Office of the President.”

Maria Blanco, J.D., Executive Director, Undocumented Legal Services Center

PROVIDING CLIMATE CHANGE SOLUTIONS

As part of the Carbon Neutrality Initiative (CNI), UC is the first major university to pledge that it will become carbon neutral by 2025, committing to emitting net zero greenhouse gases from its building and vehicle fleet. The initiative builds on the University's pioneering work on climate research and expands its leadership on sustainable business practice by improving energy efficiency, developing new sources of renewable energy and implementing ways to cut carbon emissions. UC also compiled and published "Bending the Curve: 10 scalable solutions for carbon neutrality and climate stability," a report that presents pragmatic strategies for achieving carbon neutrality and climate stability. Representing the work of more than 50 researchers and scholars from a wide range of disciplines across UC, the solutions represent a remarkable, forward-thinking and collaborative effort to proactively tackle a global problem. It is one of the first to treat mitigation of air pollution and climate disruption under one framework.



"The University of California has become a living laboratory for the nation and the planet through the example set by President Napolitano. This is done through the extraordinary Carbon Neutrality Initiative and the numerous efforts CNI has catalyzed, including the "Bending the Curve" report. By taking the lead in tackling one of the biggest societal challenges of our times, "Bending the Curve" is a catalyst and inspiration for developing knowledge, discovery and solutions from all angles, enabling disparate stakeholders, disciplines, campuses, and entities within the University of California to come together as a whole, together constituting more than the sum of its parts."

**Veerabhadran Ramanathan, Ph.D., Distinguished Professor,
Scripps Institution of Oceanography, UC San Diego**

DIVERSIFYING UC'S FACULTY

Attracting the best scholars from diverse backgrounds and expanding their opportunities is a way UC ensures the University and, by extension, the public benefits from the most accomplished and dedicated scholars. The President's Postdoctoral Fellowship Program (PPFP), a program emulated across the country, and the Chancellors' Fellowship Programs have accounted for 11.5% of new underrepresented minority faculty hired in the last ten years. Since 2004, 165 PPFP fellows have been hired into UC tenure-track positions. By attracting the best scholars nationally who have the added dimension of contributing to diversity assures that the UC system and the public it serves benefit from the finest and most relevant scholarship. PPFP fellows are also the front-line researchers across all disciplines whose work is responsive to current questions and shapes future research priorities.



"Support from the Office of the President has been crucial to the success of PPFP. Because the program supports faculty in training at all UC campuses, its central administration is instrumental in establishing PPFP's systemwide acceptance and credibility. In addition, UCOP annually provides \$2 million for the program's budget and in 2013, President Napolitano established a special initiative that provided \$5 million in program support, including lab startup support. The positive impact of the startup support funds alone is reflected in the significant increase in the program's hiring in STEM fields from 16% to 33%. As innovators, researchers, educators, and role models, the PPFP fellows represent the most qualified scholars in the nation whose work directly benefits the diverse population of California."

**Mark A. Lawson, Ph.D. UCSD Professor and Director,
UC President's Postdoctoral Fellowship Program**