UCI Student Affairs

THE CASE FOR SUPPORT





Through enriching opportunities we promote a first-in-class experience that empowers tomorrow's leaders to make the strongest possible contributions to our diverse, dynamic world.



Student Affairs: Ensuring Students Thrive

UCI Student Affairs champions the success of students by ensuring their lives outside the classroom complement their academic pursuits. Many students are chasing the American Dream, so UCI inspires all of our students to persevere amid challenges in order to excel in all aspects of their life. Through enriching opportunities we promote a first-in-class experience that empowers tomorrow's leaders to make the strongest possible contributions to our diverse, dynamic world.

Student Affairs promotes, educates and engages students in areas that are most meaningful to their success beyond UCI. Our events, activities, and involvements are centered around the following learning outcomes:

- Civic & Community Engagement
- Leadership Development
- Diversity & Global Consciousness
- Professional & Administrative Skills
- Personal Responsibility

To support the health and wellness of UCI's diverse student body, Student Affairs offers a plethora of resources to help students thrive — meeting basic needs, fostering social and emotional wellness, and developing leadership skills.

To meet basic human needs, Student Affairs established our FRESH Basic Needs Hub to help students who face food and housing insecurity — certainly, a hungry student or a student concerned about where they will live cannot thrive. We also offer resources to support healthy relationships and help survivors of sexual violence — and with a growing number of students arriving at UCI having overcome traumatic life experiences, we must expand the staff and program support resources.

Treating the whole student, UCI's Center for Student Wellness and Health Promotion office collaborates with units across campus to enhance student well-being with programs about drug and alcohol awareness, stress management, nutrition, and mental health resilience. Student Affairs, in an effort to make services and programming cohesive and comprehensive for our student veterans, is creating a community collaborative that will marry UCI programs and services with those offered within the broader Orange County community. Soon, all of Orange County's veterans will have access to more and enhanced services, with UCI leading the way.

While student veterans often bring well-honed leadership skills to campus, Student Affairs strives to provide opportunities to develop leadership skills for all of our students. One such program, Alternative Break, allows students to travel during winter and spring breaks to complete community service projects where they gain cultural competencies, grow personally and professionally, and then bring those skills back to campus. In addition, Student Affairs currently houses over 600 student clubs and organizations that focus on leadership, civic engagement, cultural and religious identities, and academic interests. Clubs and organizations within the UCI Cross-Cultural Center build inclusive communities that focus on activism, social justice, empowerment and diversity.

diversity and global consciousness

We are proud of UCI's efforts to recognize student engagement activities beyond the classroom with scholarship opportunities and awards for those who seek to improve themselves and society through their extracurricular work.

"People need to understand that the development of the whole student is really the entire purpose of higher education," says Willie Banks, UCI's new vice chancellor for student affairs. "We're here to change lives, to educate students and to develop those students." UCI serves more than 36,000 students each year, who are on their way to becoming your employees, your neighbors, your business partners, your doctors, and your community leaders, and the innovators who solve tomorrow's greatest challenges. Join us in ensuring that UCI students thrive outside the classroom today and in the future.

Opportunities include

Student Success Building (\$12 million)

The Student Success Building, with approximately 60,000 square feet of assignable space and located in a prominent location on UCI's Ring Road, will be the first of its kind in the UC system, and will house Wellness, Health & Counseling Services; the Disability Services Center; the Veteran Services Center; the Division of Career Pathways; Academic Testing Services; and the Division of Teaching Excellence and Innovation. In complementary ways, these high-impact programs all foster student success. Bringing them under one roof will unite the fragmented wellness program in a consolidated, centralized space and catalyze interactions across divisions; enabling UCI to better meet the dynamic needs of students.

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"We're here to change lives, to educate students and to develop those students."

> *– Willie Banks,* Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs



Galactic academic SUCCESS

Esports Scholarships, Research and Proposed Facility (\$5 million)

UCI is the first public university to create an official esports program. Consistently ranked as the No. 1 school for gamers by College Magazine, our UCI Esports program redefines what it means to be an elite gamer by instilling in students an appreciation for diversity, healthy living, academic success and life balance. UCI Esports is also at the forefront of gamerelated education and research. A new facility will reinforce our standing as a global center for esports, where academia and industry collaborate to improve competition, advance research, engage communities, create entertainment and launch careers. Naming opportunities include practice and competition spaces, shout-casting studio desk, research labs and more.

Undergraduate Scholarships for Student Leaders (\$500,000)

Undergraduate scholarships for student leaders will enable promising undergraduates to develop skills that enhance their academic success and prepare them for leadership roles in our dynamic and diverse global society. Scholarship recipients will gain experience with team building, public speaking, problem-solving and risk management.

community collaborations

Veterans Community Collaborative (\$300,000)

The UCI Veteran Services Center has partnered with the Orange County Veterans and Military Families Collaborative to develop programs and resources for the more than 115,000 veterans and their families living in Orange County. This partnership addresses a growing need for employment and financial services, housing, health and mental wellness services, and assistance adjusting to civilian life. Working collaboratively with the community and engaging the support of various UCI schools, the VSC seeks philanthropic support to establish an interdisciplinary UCI Veterans Research and Resource Center for the more than 40 research projects across campus that directly or indirectly improve the lives of veterans and their families.

FRESH Basic Needs Hub (\$100,000)

Launched in 2017, the FRESH Basic Needs Hub serves students dealing with food, housing and wellness insecurity — issues that affect their academic performance as well as their overall health. Forty-two percent of UCI's undergraduate student population has experienced some level of food insecurity. Housing insecurity also threatens the well-being of our students. The FRESH food pantry provides eligible students with emergency food and toiletries and connects them to critical resources that can provide financial assistance during economic crises. We are committed to making UCI a basic needs-secure campus by establishing an endowment to support the operational needs of the Hub and to provide opportunity to students who are directly affected by food and housing insecurities.

Cross-Cultural Center Programs (\$250,000)

UCI is home to the UC System's first Cross Cultural Center, created in 1974. Within the center, dozens of student clubs and organizations focus on building inclusive communities with an emphasis on activism, social justice, empowerment and diversity. The Cross-Cultural Center continues to provide many students a home away from home, and a safe space to launch their involvement in a myriad of campus programs and leadership opportunities. Funding for the Cross-Cultural Center will support ongoing programs, workshops, and events to ensure UCI's increasingly diverse student body embraces, celebrates and protects its many rich cultures and heritages.



"I saw Syrian refugees firsthand," she says. "Seeing them had a strong impact on me, and **I decided then that I had to do something to help.**" – Iman Siddiqi

Cultural Competencies

Dalai Lama Scholar Iman Siddiqi '18

Iman Siddiqi '18, came face to face with the plight of Syrian refugees during a family trip to Turkey when she was just a freshman at UCI.

"During that trip, I saw Syrian refugees firsthand," she says. "Seeing them had a strong impact on me, and I decided then that I had to do something to help."

In 2018, Siddiqi won the Dalai Lama Scholarship to support her plans to create a scholarship for displaced students the first of its kind in the UC system. With the support from the Dalai Lama Scholarship, she hosted an event at UCI that raised more than \$93,000 in a single night. Siddiqi plans to establish an endowed Refugee Students Scholarship Program at UCI, which will be the first of its kind in the UC system.

"My goal for the program is to allow displaced students refugees, asylees and asylum seekers — to complete their higher education at a UC so that they can get the education and skills that they need to rebuild their lives in their host communities," says Siddiqi.

FRESH Basic Needs Hub

FRESH, which stands for Food Resources Empowering Students with Hope aims to meet the basic nutritional needs of UCI students so that they can achieve their academic goals. The program reflects a cultural shift in how colleges are approaching the issue of food insecurity.



"I find peace in knowing that **we can create transformative spaces** like this for our communities." – Andrea Gutierrez A UC study in 2016 revealed that 42 percent of students had experienced a reduced quality of diet or decreased food intake in the previous 12 months. Similarly, a 2015 undergraduate survey at UCI found that 45 percent of Anteaters had endured food insecurity in the prior year.

So in 2016, UCI students voted to institute a fee of \$3 per quarter to provide nutritious food to needy classmates. The following year, money from that fee — along with additional funding from the University of California and the campus — enabled UCI to open a new 2,318-square-foot pantry, hire staff and provide classes on nutrition, cooking and financial planning.

"The role of FRESH goes beyond food distribution. Students can come here and learn nutrition basics and how to eat healthy on a budget. We can help them apply for emergency food and housing grants, CalFresh benefits and free meal swipes from campus dining if they qualify," said Andrea Gutierrez, FRESH's director. "We're taking a holistic approach so that students can get their basic needs met and focus on academics."

Guttierrez adds, "These are difficult times for many of our students. I find peace in knowing that we can create transformative spaces like this for our communities."

UCI Edison's STEM Transfer Scholarship

Since 2000, Edison International has provided scholarships to more than 275 transfer students in STEM (science, technology, engineering or math) degrees — and an impressive 98 percent of them have graduated with a STEM degree.

"The support from Edison has enabled us to bridge the critical funding gap for talented students from our local community college who think a STEM degree from an institution like UCI is out of their reach," said Stephanie Reyes-Tuccio, Ph.D., executive director of the Center for Educational Partnerships at UCI. "Not only does it get them in the door, the ongoing support and services we are able to provide ensures that they leave with their degree and a promising future."

As a computer game science major at UC Irvine, Daniel Lara needed a computer powerful enough to create games on. But his seven-year-old laptop wasn't cutting it. Thanks to the UCI Edison scholarship, he bought himself a new laptop with the latest software to create his games.

"I truly feel blessed to have received this scholarship and I now have the tools I need to create anything I can imagine," he said.

"Providing STEM scholarships to assist under-resourced students continue their education is an important part of Edison's commitment to increasing the diversity of underrepresented minorities and women in STEM careers," said Lisa Woon, principal manager of Corporate Philanthropy for Southern California Edison. "We realize that these students are our future workforce and we want to do our part to help them accomplish their educational goals."

Flife balance

ESPN DocuSeries Features UCI Esports

UCI has drawn the attention of ESPN in what some might find a surprising place: esports. The final installment in a four-part series, *Good Game: UC Irvine* followed UCI's varsity computer gaming team in the lead-up to the defense of their title in the 2019 League of Legends College Championship. The collegiate championship included more than 350 university teams competing for \$1 million dollars in scholarship money from Riot Games, the developer of the popular League of Legends game. During the filming of the ESPN2 docuseries, film crews accompanied Anteater video gamers through their normal campus activities of studying, practicing and working with UCI Esports team member support staff in preparation for the tough competitions ahead. They even followed players into their dorms and families' homes.

"We opened the door to the ESPN2 producers to provide a complete, unvarnished view of the lives of elite level collegiate gamers," said Mark Deppe, director of UCI Esports. "We are excited for the world to see what it's like to be part of one of the world's leading college esports programs."





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