

May 12, 2016

Re: CONGRATULATIONS UCD CLASS OF 2016!

Dear Member of the UC Davis Graduating Class of 2016,

We, the Trustees of the [University of California Davis Foundation \(UCDF\)](#), congratulate you and roughly 9,200 of your colleagues on graduating from UC Davis' 104 undergraduate majors and 96 graduate programs this year. We also extend our congratulations to your parents and other loved ones who helped you to achieve this notable goal. We welcome you as one of the over 220,000 alumni of one of the most esteemed public universities in North America.

UC Davis is a unique place filled with outstanding educators and researchers who have the good fortune to work with truly exceptional students like you. The end result is a campus unlike any other and we hope that you will take great pride in sharing the story of your alma mater with others.

During your time on campus, much has been accomplished to enhance the world-wide reputation of our university. Specific items of note include:

- In 2015, UC Davis was the only public university in the U.S. with two programs, Veterinary Medicine and Agriculture and Environmental Sciences, rated number one in the world.
- The 2016 annual GreenMetric rankings placed UC Davis as a world leader in environmental sustainability in teaching, research, and campus lifestyle. Students live and study on one of the greenest campuses on earth as UC Davis was ranked No.2 in the U.S. and No.3 globally for campus sustainability.
- Last year, UC Davis increased its enrollment of California in-state undergraduate students significantly and continues to provide access to more resident students than any other UC campus.
- Extramural funding for faculty research in 2014-15 was an astounding \$786 million.
- Understanding the financial burden of receiving your degree, UC Davis is proud that financial aid to all students totaled \$230 million during the past year. We are also pleased that a significant percentage of our graduates accrued no debt while on campus (44%). An ongoing commitment to increasing this statistic for future graduates is paramount to our campus.
- UC Davis takes pride in its role in providing upward mobility for generations of students as nearly 45% of our student population represent the first in their family to receive a college degree.
- UC Davis' commitment to diversity is unparalleled, including a higher percentage of female undergraduate STEM majors than any other UC campus (54%), an expanding international student population providing all of our students access and exposure to cultures from around the globe, and a remarkable 26% of our undergraduates are members of typically underrepresented populations in higher education.
- Over 40% of our graduating seniors have assisted faculty with hands-on research during their time at UC Davis.

We could go on and on, but you get the message. We have AGGIE PRIDE and know that you do as well. We look forward to working with you as alumni of this great university, as we strive to be the best we can and to provide a rich educational future for you, your children and your fellow citizens in the great state of California and around the world!

Finally, we would like to take this opportunity to introduce the UC Davis Foundation to you and its critical role in making UC Davis such a great student-focused university. Established in 1959, the Foundation has a noble history of stewarding private contributions that advance the university's mission of teaching, research and service. Recently, the permanent endowment for UC Davis exceeded \$1 billion, which will support the university in perpetuity. In addition, we are grateful to our alumni and friends who make private gifts that average \$200 million a year both for current use of the campus and additions to the endowment. We endeavor to represent UC Davis as ambassadors dedicated to the fairness and transparency of our university community. One of our top priorities is to support our students. Those of you who were a recipient of scholarship funding, which in the past year alone totaled more than \$45 million, are well aware of the impact of private gift support. Philanthropic gifts, however go well beyond scholarships and played a part in your time as a student that you may not be aware of:

- Support to students with urgent financial need through the *We are Aggie Pride* Trustee Matching Fund.
- Funds for outstanding teaching and research through 175 endowed chairs, the UC Davis Prize for Undergraduate Teaching and Scholarly Achievement and the Chancellor's Fellows.
- Support for campus infrastructure with new building construction, classroom and laboratory renovations and numerous art in public places projects and campus beautification efforts.
- Funds for the UC Davis Libraries to allow for new additions to the collection, subscriptions to on-line databases and support for special collections.

These are just a few examples of how the generosity of our alumni and friends have helped to enrich your experiences at UC Davis. As you graduate and celebrate this important academic milestone, we hope you will continue to participate as an active member of the Aggie family. We look forward to working with you to build the University of the 21st Century for future generations.

With best wishes for a successful career and bright future,

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