

*As prepared for delivery*

**President Janet Napolitano  
Notable Honors and Achievements Remarks  
UC Board of Regents Meeting  
UCLA  
Los Angeles, CA  
September 14, 2016  
9:30 am**

Thank you, Chair Lozano.

I am pleased to report that our University of California campuses continue to rank at the top, both nationally and internationally, for academic excellence, value, and public service, according to several higher education surveys released over the summer.

UC campuses stood out in the 2016 Academic Ranking of World Universities, which is an assessment of the top 500 universities in the world. The largest global ranking of its kind, this list takes into consideration six criteria, including faculty quality and research output. This year, the survey ranked UC Berkeley third worldwide, while UCLA, UC San Diego, UCSF, UC Santa Barbara, UC Irvine, UC Davis, and UC Santa Cruz all placed in the top 100.

The Center for World University Rankings uses six indicators to assess institutions, including the number of award-winning staff and alumni, and the number of faculty articles published in prestigious journals. This year, four UC campuses placed among the Center's top 20 in the world: UC Berkeley ranked seventh, UCLA ranked fifteenth, UC San Diego ranked seventeenth, and UC San Francisco ranked eighteenth.

*Money* magazine also undertakes an annual college ranking; the magazine rates U.S. institutions based on quality, affordability, and outcomes. This summer, seven UC campuses placed among the magazine's top 100 "best value" institutions. UC Berkeley led the way at number five, UC San Diego placed 14<sup>th</sup>, UC Irvine placed 16<sup>th</sup>, UC Davis placed 17<sup>th</sup>, UCLA placed 20<sup>th</sup>, UC Santa Cruz placed 41<sup>st</sup>, and UC Santa Barbara placed 92<sup>nd</sup>.

The annual *Washington Monthly* rankings have consistently lauded UC campuses, as the publication did once again this year. Institutions are assessed based on three

factors: enrolling and graduating low-income students, producing renowned research and Ph.D.s, and fostering a commitment to public service among their students.

This year, the *Washington Monthly* ranked four UC campuses in its top 10 nationally. UC San Diego was fourth, UC Berkeley was seventh, UCLA was eighth, and UC Davis was tenth. Our five other general campuses also placed: UC Riverside was 12<sup>th</sup>, UC Santa Barbara was 17<sup>th</sup>, UC Irvine was 35<sup>th</sup>, UC Merced was 41<sup>st</sup>, and UC Santa Cruz was 97<sup>th</sup>.

In addition, *Sierra* magazine has ranked UC Irvine, UC Davis, and UC Santa Cruz among the top 20 colleges—and I quote—“doing the most to save our planet.” In fact, all nine of our undergraduate campuses made the Sierra Club magazine’s top 100 list for sustainability practices, and this was the seventh straight year UC Irvine ranked in the top 10. It is the only university out of the more than 200 surveyed annually to do so.

And this week, *U.S. News & World Report* released its rankings of the nation’s top public universities. UC Berkeley and UCLA placed number one and number two, respectively, just as they did last year. Six UC campuses in all ranked in the top 10: UC Santa Barbara placed eight, UC Irvine was ninth, and UC Davis and UC San Diego tied for tenth.

I am also pleased to report that two University of California medical centers rank in the top 10 nationally, according to the annual *U.S. News & World Report* survey for health centers—UCLA placed fifth, and UCSF ranked seventh. All five UC medical centers ranked among the nation’s best for patient care, and all five were counted in the top 10 hospitals in California. UCLA and UCSF placed one and two in the state; UC Davis placed fifth; UC San Diego was sixth; and UC Irvine tenth.

Turning to our faculty and alumni, we congratulate Dr. Bruce Alberts, who is the Chancellor’s Leadership Chair in Biochemistry and Biophysics for Science and Education at UCSF, and who just received the 2016 Lasker-Koshland Special Achievement Award in Medical Science. This award, which is given biannually, is one of the highest honors in biomedicine. Dr. Alberts was recognized for his many achievements, including his “fundamental discoveries in DNA replication and protein biochemistry.”

I also would like to recognize UC Irvine Computer Science Professor Dr. Gene Tsudik, who has been elected to the Academia Europaea in recognition of his international scholarship and sustained contributions to European research.

And two weeks ago, we learned that seven UC Berkeley engineers were named top innovators under 35 by the *MIT Technology Review*.

They include two engineers who are currently at the University—Wei Gao, who is a postdoctoral fellow in electrical engineering and computer sciences, and Sergey Levine, an Assistant Professor of Electrical Engineering and Computer Sciences—and five alumni.

These alumni are Kelly Gardner, a Berkeley bioengineering Ph.D. and former postdoctoral fellow; Christine Ho, a Berkeley materials science Ph.D.; Alex Heygi, a Berkeley electrical engineering and computer sciences Ph.D.; Oriol Vinyals, also a Berkeley electrical engineering and computer sciences Ph.D.; and Heather Bowerman, who received her bachelor's degree in bioengineering at Berkeley.

Our faculty members are integral not just to the education and research that takes place at UC, but also to the University's spirit and sense of community. And so it is with sadness that I report that our University mourns the recent loss of some of its famed researchers and beloved faculty members.

In July, Professor Stanford S. "Sol" Penner passed away. Professor Penner contributed to our country's early space program, and helped transform UC San Diego into an engineering powerhouse.

Also in July, we said goodbye to Dr. Sherman Mellinkoff, who served as dean of the UCLA School of Medicine for 24 years, guiding its ascent as a nationally renowned center for medical education and research.

Bruce Bridgeman, a noted professor of psychology and psychobiology at UC Santa Cruz, was killed in an accident in Taipei in July.

Last month, UC Riverside's Pam Clute passed away. The assistant vice chancellor emerita and champion of K-12 STEM education had retired a year ago after 40 years of service to UCR.

Trailblazing anthropologist Elizabeth Colson, who was a professor emerita in anthropology at UC Berkeley, passed away at her home in Zambia in early August.

For decades, Dr. Colson studied social change related to forced displacement and migration, among other subjects.

UC Davis lost beloved plant sciences professor Kentaro Inoue [in-NO-way] in an accident on August 31.

And also in August, we lost another celebrated scientist from San Diego.

Professor Roger Tsien, who shared the 2008 Nobel Prize in Chemistry for his research on the use of fluorescent proteins, passed away at the age of 64. Professor Tsien was a first-generation American who taught at UC Berkeley before joining UCSD in 1989.

These accomplished members of the University of California community will be deeply missed and should be honored.

I would now like to turn to our Board, and congratulate two members who were recognized recently for their accomplishments.

I would like to congratulate Regent Pérez on the transfer of his archival materials from his tenure as Speaker to UC Berkeley. Regent Pérez, we are honored that the Berkeley campus will be the future home of the records of your distinguished career in the State Assembly.

I also would like to congratulate Regent Oakley on his appointment as Chancellor of the California Community College system.

The partnership between the University of California, and California's community colleges, is instrumental in providing educational opportunities to the young people of our state. Regent Oakley, I know that my fellow Regents and colleagues at UC wish you well in this new endeavor, and I look forward to working with you to further strengthen this important partnership.

And finally, I am pleased to announce today the inaugural awards for Outstanding Advocacy.

The Outstanding Advocacy awards, which are given jointly by both the University President and the Chair of the University's Board of Regents, honor our California State Legislators who have championed public higher education, including the University of California.

These legislators are true public servants who have fought consistently to keep higher education accessible and affordable. Though we may have had our disagreements, our work with them was characterized by mutual respect, and a desire to do right by California students.

Going forward, the Outstanding Advocacy awards will also honor community members who have demonstrated tremendous advocacy on behalf of the University.

These community members include Howard Welinsky, who has been one of UC's strongest allies. Howard is retiring from Warner Brothers (...so we hope he will have even more time to advocate for UC...), and has set a high bar for steadfast and ceaseless support for UC. We thank him for the tremendous dedication he has undertaken on behalf of our University.

Unfortunately, Howard was not able to join us today, so we will honor him in person at a future meeting.

There are four legislators Chair Lozano and I would like to recognize at *this* meeting for their support of higher education and UC: Assembly Member Don Wagner and Senator Lois Wolk, who are the two founding co-chairs of the UC Legislative Roundtable; Senator Carol Liu, who is Chair of the Senate Education Committee; and Assembly Member Das Williams, who is the former Chair of the Assembly Higher Education Committee.

I am pleased that Assembly Member Wagner could join us in person today, so that we may honor him appropriately for his service in the Legislature, and for his ongoing support of UC Irvine and of his alma mater, UCLA. Assembly Member Wagner has long recognized that in addition to providing a world-class education to its students, UC campuses like Irvine positively impact their local communities through research and innovation.

At the same time, as co-chair of the UC Legislative Roundtable, Assembly Member Wagner and his staff brought together legislators who share a common interest in the University, and played a leadership role in working with these legislators to address important higher education issues.

Please join me and Chair Lozano in congratulating Assembly Member Wagner.

Assembly Member Wagner, we thank you for your service to California, and for your support of the University of California.

Chair Lozano, this concludes my remarks.