UC and K-12

Last year, more than 80,000 of California's K-12 teachers participated in UC-administered professional development programs aimed at improving teacher preparation and student achievement in key subject areas.

Encompassing such programs as the California Subject Matter Projects and California Professional Development Institutes, UC is coordinating this statewide effort in partnership with California State University, independent colleges and universities, and the K-12 community.

Through a network of 13 regional sites, the nine subject matter projects — which include the arts, foreign languages, history and social sciences, health and physical education, international studies, mathematics, reading, science and writing — all subjects required for both UC and CSU admission — conduct standards-based, discipline-specific programs for California's teachers.

As part of its role in improving K-12 education, UC is committed to recruiting, training, and supporting K-12 educators at each of its eight general campuses. UC provides a wide range of ongoing professional development and support and offers multiple routes to teacher credentialing.

Find out more about what UC is doing to help improve teacher preparation, ongoing teacher professional development and student achievement in California's public schools: http://tepd.ucop.edu

Demand for teachers in California

The size of the workforce has increased nearly 48 percent since the late 1980s. It's expected to continue to increase.

New students, new scenery

Classes have resumed at UC campuses for 2001-02 with an estimated 42,000 new undergraduates beginning their study on the eight general education campuses, meaning UC is serving record numbers of undergrads. At Riverside, a new 55,000-square-foot arts building opened that's home to the departments of art, dance, history of art, music and theater. Its state-of-the-art performance spaces and studio will also serve as venues for campus and community arts presentations. At Santa Cruz, students found a new, expanded bookstore, part of a new, spacious student plaza in the center of campus that creates a campus hub for the first time. The new store is three times larger than the previous store and includes a convenience store and an expanded dorm supplies section. At Santa Barbara, an estimated 4,500 students and a few parents joined 65 faculty and administrators in full regalia for the ceremonial New Student Convocation on the Faculty Club Green.

UC responds to the threats to public security

In the wake of the Sept. 11 events, Gov. Davis has asked the University to help take the lead in better preparing the state for possible terrorist attacks.

In responding, President Richard C. Atkinson wrote that even before Sept. 11, thousands of researchers at UC's campuses, UC-managed national laboratories and the four new California Institutes of Science and Innovation were already at work on scientific and policy research related to the terrorist threat.

Specifically, the president outlined the range of UC expertise available, from its research into how to protect water supplies from disease-causing microorganisms to how to defend such critical infrastructures as the telecommunications system, power grid, air traffic control systems, and financial markets. He added that among the other many areas UC researchers can lend assistance is in public health, cybersecurity, disaster response, and in structural engineering. “In keeping with a long tradition of providing its research assistance for the nation’s security needs, the University of California stands ready to contribute a range of research expertise to help protect and defend the United States against possible future terrorist attacks,” Atkinson wrote. More: www.ucop.edu/news/archives/2001/sept12art1.html

Funds for higher education facilities

The state Legislature is considering an education bond measure for the 2002 ballot to help California’s K-12 public schools, colleges and universities – including the 10 UC campuses, 23 California State Universities and 108 community colleges – provide new academic buildings, seismic repairs and other facility improvements. If approved, the bond would take the place of and supplement funding from a 1998 bond that ends next June. UC’s capital outlay needs alone associated with the 64,000 additional students over the next decade are estimated at $600 million per year. UC will need about half of that amount from the bond. To keep informed or get involved, please call UC's Advocacy office at (916) 445-8055; or visit: www.ucop.edu/uer/state

DID YOU KNOW? UC helps manage the world's largest optical and infrared telescopes? High atop Hawai’i's dormant Mauna Kea volcano, the W.M. Keck Observatory's twin telescopes stand eight stories tall and weigh 300 tons. Reach for the stars at UC: www.ucolick.org
Two well-respected media leaders joined the UC Regents in September – Monica C. Lozano, president and CEO of La Opinion newspaper, and Norman J. Pattiz, founder and chairman of Westwood One, among the nation’s largest radio networks. Gov. Davis’ latest appointees, both from Southern California, have extensive experience in education. Lozano, 45, served on the California Postsecondary Education Commission from 1999-2001 and has also been a member of the State Board of Education and USC trustees. Pattiz, 58, is a member of the Broadcast Education Association and dean’s advisory board of Cal State Fullerton, and serves on the communications board of UCLA’s students association. More: www.ucop.edu/regents

Mondavi gift nurtures body and soul

UC Davis recently received the most generous single gift from an individual donor in UC history – a $35 million donation from legendary winemaker Robert Mondavi and his wife, Margit. The gift will establish the Robert Mondavi Institute for Wine and Food Science and name the campus’s new Center for the Performing Arts. The institute, which will include 75,000 square feet of classrooms, labs and offices, a food-processing plant and a research winery, will help maintain UC Davis’ position as the world’s leading educational center for viticulture and food science. Groundbreaking for the institute is expected in 2004. Opening in fall 2002, the $61-million regional performing arts complex – including a 1,800-seat performance hall, a recital hall and theater – will provide a state-of-the-art cultural venue in Northern California. More: www.news.ucdavis.edu/mondavi

Private support again tops $1 billion

For the second consecutive year, UC’s support from private donors exceeded the $1 billion mark in 2000-01 – less than $50 million off the previous year’s all-time record of $1.222 billion and a roughly three-fold increase over the past decade. This stellar achievement reflects major campaigns at UC Berkeley and UCLA, the efforts surrounding the construction of UC San Francisco’s new Mission Bay campus, and private support that fueled the creation of the four UC-based California Institutes for Science and Innovation. Forty-three percent of last year’s gifts went to the four UC-based California Institutes for Science and Innovation. Forty-three percent of last year’s gifts went to UC’s health sciences. Endowed chairs have climbed to 777 – with 58 more last year – from 80 just two decades ago. Commitments from alumni, foundations, companies and other private sources are increasingly vital to sustain the quality of UC’s teaching and research efforts. In addition to private support, tuition and fees, UC receives about one-quarter of its funding from the state and more than 50 percent from federal sources. More: www.ucop.edu/uer/instdav/annual/welcome.html

Another UC economist wins Nobel Prize

George A. Akerlof, a UC Berkeley economics professor, was named the 2001 co-winner of the Nobel Prize in economic sciences, the second consecutive year in which the honor has gone to a Berkeley economist. Akerlof, 61, wrote a landmark study on the role of asymmetric information in the market for “lemon” used cars. His research broke with established economic theory in illustrating how markets malfunction when buyers and sellers – as seen in used car markets – operate under different information. The work has had far-reaching applications in such diverse areas as health insurance, financial markets and employment contracts. With Akerlof’s win, faculty and researchers affiliated with UC have won 44 Nobel Prizes, 12 of them in the last six years.

New Web site helps California count

A new online service, dubbed Counting California, allows researchers and the public to discover and use government data about California. One can quickly browse by topics, ranging from agriculture to health, business to transportation, or focus on data by city, county or region from nearly a dozen sources. UC’s California Digital Library developed and hosts Counting California with support from state and federal research grants. Because agencies often use different formats and access methods in making their data available, Counting California relieves the frustrations of constantly changing software and data revisions by providing stable, consistent Web-based search tools. The site also helps preserve data from previous years as agencies publish new sets of information. Visit Counting California at http://countingcalifornia.cdlib.org. And the California Digital Library at: www.cdlib.org.

UC and your health – on the air

The University of California offers more than a great education – it also plays a vital role in keeping Californians healthy. UC has five medical centers that treat more than 100,000 patients each year and operates the nation’s largest health sciences and medical training program with over 12,000 students annually. UC’s presence is also on the airwaves – UC-TV, the university’s national TV channel, airs several health and medicine programs. “Pulse,” UC Davis’ award-winning health magazine show, airs in 90 of the top 100 U.S. markets. “Science Today,” UC Davis Medical Center’s award-winning health magazine show, airs in 90 of the top 100 U.S. markets. “Science Today,” UC’s weekly radio program for Westwood One/CBS Radio Network, often features stories on UC’s latest discoveries in health, nutrition and the environment. Check out UC and your health online: www.uctv.health.asp; http://pulse.ucdavis.edu; www.ucop.edu/sciencetoday.