IN Touch
A University of California newsletter on issues about the university

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UC attracts most federal R&D funds

California ranks first in the nation in federal research funding and among universities the University of California gets the biggest share.

A new database created by the Rand Corp. revealed California receives $14.4 billion, almost twice as much federal research funding annually than any other state.

Of these funds, UC campuses captured 8,095 basic research grants totaling $1.13 billion in 1998, the most recent year for which complete figures are available. Stanford University received 1,331 grants totaling $249 million; the University of Southern California, 674 grants, $132 million; and Caltech, 609 grants, $86 million.

The Department of Defense is the leading source of federal research funding in California at 56 percent, followed by NASA, 19 percent; Department of Health and Human Services, including the National Institutes of Health, 10 percent; Department of Energy, 9 percent; and National Science Foundation, 3 percent.

The Rand study determined that:

- $1 of every $5 coming to California in federal tax funds is earmarked for R&D.
- Federal research grants are significant because they fund much of the basic research so critical to expanding our knowledge and understanding of fundamental scientific phenomena.
- The database, known as RaDiUS, can be found at: www.rand.org/raadius.

Universities receiving the most federal R&D funds (FY 1998)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>University</th>
<th>Amount (M)</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>UC system</td>
<td>$1134 M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U. of Texas</td>
<td>$422 M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Johns Hopkins U.</td>
<td>$336 M</td>
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<tr>
<td>U. of Wash.</td>
<td>$326 M</td>
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<tr>
<td>U. of Penn.</td>
<td>$277 M</td>
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<tr>
<td>U. of Michigan</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stanford U.</td>
<td>$249 M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harvard U.</td>
<td>$236 M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yale U.</td>
<td>$227 M</td>
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<tr>
<td>Columbia U.</td>
<td>$225 M</td>
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</tbody>
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Source: Rand Corp.

Regents endorse state ballot measure in support of K-12

With California's K-12 public schools facing an increase of nearly one million students in the next decade, the UC Board of Regents at its July meeting endorsed Prop. 39, the Smaller Classes, Safer Schools and Financial Accountability Act. The proposition, to appear on the November ballot, would allow local school bond issues to be passed with a 55 percent vote rather than the two-thirds majority now required.

Gov. Gray Davis will chair the campaign, with former Gov. Pete Wilson serving as co-chair. California State University, the California Chamber of Commerce, the California State PTA and the California Business Roundtable endorse the measure. The Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Organization is opposed. For more information on Prop. 39, visit the www.calvoter.org Web site, the proponents' Web site at www.betterschoolsforCA.org, or the opponents' Web site at www.saveourhomes.com.

State budget invests in UC

The 2000-01 state budget that Gov. Davis signed makes a strong investment in the University of California and its vital roles in education, health care and the economy. The new budget will fund enrollment growth on UC campuses, expand programs for K-12 teachers, improve safety at UC hospitals, and create three new science institutes for research important to the California economy.

UC's state-funded operating budget totals $3.2 billion – an increase of 18 percent from last year. To maintain access to a high-quality, affordable education, the budget also provides funds to keep mandatory systemwide student fees at current levels – the sixth consecutive year that an increase has been avoided – and reduces summer fees to the level of the rest of the academic year. Beyond a $75-million allocation for medical equipment and infrastructure needs, the budget authorizes $600 million in lease-revenue bonds for earthquake safety repairs at UC's five teaching hospitals.

Budget makes strategic investments

The 2000-01 state budget funds student enrollment growth of 6,000, or 4 percent, which includes a UC plan to double the number of students in its teacher credentialing programs and to expand engineering and computer science enrollments by 50 percent.

The budget provides $71 million to UC-led programs for professional development of public school teachers, including expansion of the successful Reading Institutes and creation of similar institutes for high school math and English teachers.

To help sustain California's leadership role in the new economy, UC will receive $75 million to create three science institutes (see story on reverse). Each institute will bring together faculty, students and industrial partners to work in cross-disciplinary teams to develop the next generation of knowledge.

Environmental plans for the region surrounding the new UC Merced campus got a $44-million boost. Funds will be used to develop and implement a habitat conservation plan and to acquire additional land to protect local wetlands and wildlife.

Now they are found . . .

UC boasts nearly one million living alumni worldwide. One of the biggest projects undertaken this year by the Alumni Associations of the University of California was a campaign to find “lost” alumni, graduates for whom we had no current addresses. The project, contracted to a private outfit, found over 117,500 new addresses – or more than 90 percent of the alumni sought.
Go Cats! UC Merced selects mascot

UC Merced has selected the golden bobcat as its mascot, capping a seven-month “name-the-mascot” contest. The sleek feline is distinctive and one of the indigenous critters roaming the foothills of Eastern Merced County near where UC’s 10th campus will be built. The mascot and logo was unveiled recently in front of 300 Livingston Middle School students. For suggesting the new mascot, Lisa Lopez, a Livingston fifth-grader, won a four-year scholarship from the university covering UC Merced student fees (she must qualify for admission) and $1,000 for textbooks from the Great Valley Center, a non-profit organization.

Relief for Los Alamos residents

UC has made a $150,000 relief-fund donation to aid the relief and recovery effort in the wake of the Northern New Mexico forest fire around the Los Alamos National Laboratory. UC laboratory employees and other community members will also have access to $5,000 personal loans through UC. To aid the community in the recovery effort, UC experts have also assembled a task force of officials who were instrumental in guiding recovery efforts following the 1989 Bay Area earthquake and 1991 firestorm that devastated neighborhoods in the Oakland-Berkeley hills.

The UC Northern New Mexico Fire Relief Fund will help residents rebuild. Donations can be sent to Los Alamos National Bank, P.O. B. 60, Los Alamos, NM 87544, (505) 988-3200; account number 96358501.

UC’s slice of life: human genome decoded

International researchers announced they have identified nearly all of the genetic coding imbedded in human cells – a breakthrough that holds the promise for dramatic advances in treating disease and maintaining good health. The Human Genome Project, a collaboration of the UC-managed Livermore, Los Alamos and Lawrence Berkeley national laboratories, has completed a “working draft” of the 3.1 billion, precisely ordered chemicals that make up human DNA. The breakthrough comes less than 50 years after Francis Crick, a UC San Diego geneticist, co-discovered the structure of DNA – for which he shared the 1963 Nobel Prize in chemistry – that heralded the beginning of modern genomics. By understanding how genes work and interact, medical researchers will learn how genetic malfunction causes disease, leading eventually to cures for many diseases.

In Touch is produced by University and External Relations, 510.987.9200

In conformance with applicable law and UC policy, the university is an affirmative action/equal opportunity employer. Please send inquiries regarding the UC’s affirmative action and equal opportunity policies for staff to director Mattie Williams and for faculty to executive director Sheila O’Rourke, both at: UC Office of the President, 1111 Franklin St., Oakland, CA 94607.

“Science Today” goes video

A monthly video version of Science Today, the UC-produced show that airs on CBS Radio, is now being produced for UCTV, the university’s television channel. Tune in at: www.ucop.edu/sciencetoday and on the EchoStar Dish Network, channel 9412.

Institutes for science and innovation

Gov. Davis has appointed an international panel of distinguished scholars and scientific experts to select three new California Institutes for Science and Innovation at UC campuses. Working with private sector and academic experts, the panel will evaluate proposals from six finalists, with a decision expected by late fall. The governor envisions the centers to produce scientific advances in fields critical to the state’s economy, to play a vital role in training a new generation of scientists and engineers and to stimulate the creation of new businesses and jobs for California. The institutes will be devoted to basic and applied cross-disciplinary research.

The governor’s plan provides $75 million in state funding each year for the next four years to establish the centers. It also requires $2 from non-state sources for every $1 of state funds devoted to the project. UC President Richard C. Atkinson applauded the governor’s initiative, noting that it will enable California to expand its role at the leading edge of technological innovation in the 21st century.

New information services for California

The Library of California and California Digital Library have joined forces in a plan that promises to make information accessible to Californians like never before. The partnership signals unprecedented cooperation among UC’s CDL, which pulls together the collections and resources of UC’s campus libraries, and the Library of California, which was created by the state Legislature in 1998 to link the state’s libraries. The alliance is an important avenue for promoting collaboration among the California’s multitude of libraries.

Among the areas of immediate focus for the partnership are several that increase access to library collections throughout the state. The California Periodicals Database, which lists over 860,000 magazines and journal titles owned by more than 550 California libraries, is hosted at the CDL. Also, the LOC-CDL agreement extends access to “finding aids” for CDL’s Online Archive of California, which represents nearly 5,000 collections of photographs, manuscripts and other archival materials in libraries, museums and historical societies throughout California.

Establishing convenient, long-term access to government information is also a priority. The CDL’s government information initiatives include “California Counts,” an online gateway to social science data, to be established with LOC support. California Counts will include data on population, housing, health, crime, the economy, education, the environment and other topics, much of it drawn from key state agencies.