Welcome to the latest COVID-19 update with information about how the University of California is responding and adapting to the pandemic, as well as campus, health center and national laboratory news.

While this year’s graduation ceremonies look quite different because of COVID-19, we can still celebrate and cheer on the 58,000 students graduating from the University of California, 41 percent of whom are the first in their family to receive an undergraduate degree. UC’s quarter campuses begin virtual celebrations later this week, and we invite your office to join us in celebrating.

Here’s how you can help celebrate UC’s grads:

- Post your words of congratulations on social media using the hashtag #UC2020Grad
- Consider including our social media images and digital posters, which can be downloaded from our Box file

Preparedness and Response
Critical operations continue at all UC campus and system locations, and our health centers continue to provide vital services to their communities.

- As the world continues to confront the global pandemic, the UC community has stepped up like never before, drawing on the spirit of ingenuity and service that defines us. >> Read More
- UC Santa Cruz and Santa Cruz Community Health, a nonprofit primary care provider for low-income patients, are working together to test the area’s underserved residents for COVID-19. >> Read More
- Recently, UCLA launched a multilingual resource hub website that presents COVID-19 resources and other information in more than 40 languages. >> Read More
- Thanks to UC San Diego Health, mobile life support is being delivered to area hospitals during the pandemic – a transportable heart-and-lung machine provides lifesaving care to critically ill patients. >> Read More
- Governments in Bangladesh and other developing countries have turned to the UC Berkeley Center for Effective Global Action for help in using advanced technology to support relief programs for people affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. >> Read More
- In the latest push to ensure that San Franciscans who are at heightened risk of contracting COVID-19 get tested and treated, UCSF is sponsoring a free testing event for anyone experiencing homelessness in Supervisory District 10, which encompasses parts of the southeastern part of the city. >> Read More
• With the support of the Los Alamos Employees’ Scholarship Fund, two Santa Fe nursing students are on track to work in the medical field and are organizing a volunteer program to make face masks for frontline health care workers. >> Read More

**Student and Campus Life**

UC is committed to ensuring continuity and providing resources for its campus and lab communities.

• Last month, UC held a two-day system-wide virtual career fair – students from across the 10 campuses had the opportunity to meet nationwide hiring representatives real-time in a live, virtual setting. >> Read More

• UC Santa Barbara has launched two new initiatives – Keep Learning UCSB and Keep Teaching UCSB – that are meant to serve as first stops for resources, support, strategies and best practices for educating, and for receiving education, remotely. >> Read More

• UC Merced’s semi-annual event, Innovate to Grow, has adapted to the COVID-19 pandemic by going virtual – the expo connects students with the greater San Joaquin Valley community to create projects and technologies that benefit the world around them. >> Read More

**Research**

UC researchers continue to advance understanding and develop new tools to address and respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. Below are highlights of some of the efforts taking place.

• Last week, UC announced $2 million in seed funding for important research across the state aimed at mitigating the impact of COVID-19, particularly among those at greater risk for infection and adverse outcomes. >> Read More

• UC Irvine researchers have created a coronavirus microarray test to determine true prevalence of COVID-19 infection and gauge antibody responses. >> Read More

• A UC Riverside-led study is looking at how the coronavirus could be prevented from invading a host cell. >> Read More

• With new seed grants from the UC Davis Office of Research’s COVID-19 Research Accelerator Funding Track, three teams of UC Davis engineers are applying their expertise toward the pandemic response to help people become safer, healthier and better-tested. >> Read More

• A team of scientists is working with researchers at the Molecular Foundry, a nanoscience user facility located at the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, to develop a gene-targeting, antiviral agent against COVID-19. >> Read More

• A Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory-led team has developed a new approach for improving the reliability of artificial intelligence and deep learning-based models. The method was recently applied to study chest X-ray images of patients diagnosed with COVID-19, arising due to the novel SARS-Cov-2 coronavirus. >> Read More

**Ongoing Challenges**

We are thankful for the emergency legislation that has been signed into law, but know that our community won’t fully recover without additional investments in research, health care and education.
• Details about UC’s specific priorities and ongoing challenges are detailed in an April 10 letter from UC President Janet Napolitano that was shared with your office. >> Read More

We share the pain, frustration and heartbreak afflicting our nation over the tragic deaths of George Floyd and countless other African Americans and people of color. It’s time for individual and collective reflection on the lives unnecessarily lost. We must confront the systemic problems and challenges we face as a society, and firmly commit to ending race-based killings and violence. In that spirit, we want to share the statement made by UC Board of Regents Chair John A. Pérez and President Napolitano on the death of George Floyd and the subsequent protests.

UC statement on protests, violence following George Floyd’s death

If you have any questions about this week’s update or other issues, please contact Chris Harrington with UC’s Office of Federal Governmental Relations.