

The University of California's impact is felt all across California. UC research strengthens California's economy, UC health centers provide health care across the state, UC national labs protect the country's national security, UC Agriculture and Natural Resources supports communities with extension programs and a UC education expands opportunity and economic mobility for students and their families. And as new technologies emerge, UC stays true to its education, research, health care and public service mission and considers how such innovations can advance the public good. The [UC AI Steering Committee](#) will leverage UC's research expertise for the responsible adoption of AI to amplify the University's impact. Don't just take our word for it, though. Find all this and more in the [2026 UC Accountability Report](#), which highlights the system's impact across the state and country.

ICYMI: The new [2027 Best Colleges](#) rankings are out, and UC Berkeley and UCLA are tied for America's #1 public university. Five UC campuses are among the country's top 10 public universities, and all undergraduate campuses are among the top 50. All nine undergraduate campuses also ranked highly for social mobility, or how well lower-income students earn degrees that lead to financially successful futures -- with UC Merced in the #1 spot and UC Riverside #4.

-- Chris Harrington, UC Associate Vice President,
Federal Governmental Relations

What We're Watching

1.

Accelerating recovery

Researchers at **UC Santa Barbara** are using a **Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency** award to [rapidly produce DNA, RNA and proteins](#) from digital instructions to accelerate development of medicines, antibodies and environmental cleanup tools -- critical in remote locations, military bases, space stations and disaster zones.

2.

Preventing against tick-borne disease

The [new treatments](#) for a potentially fatal tick-borne disease come courtesy of **UC Riverside** scientists. The research,

funded by the **National Institutes of Health** and the **Military Infectious Disease Research Program**, found that one antibody protected against lethal infection and multiple virus strains.

3.

A new era of innovation

The San Diego Supercomputer Center at **UC San Diego**, funded by the **National Science Foundation**, will connect researchers, educators and students nationwide with [advanced AI computing](#), data, software and training. The initiative could accelerate discoveries in biomedicine, fusion energy, materials science and public health, while expanding the AI workforce and supporting innovation across California and the country.

4.

Advancing cybersecurity

Researchers at **UC Santa Cruz** are using a **National Science Foundation** CAREER award to study [cybersecurity vulnerabilities](#) in energy-efficient analog computing systems. The project could help protect future AI systems and other technologies from attacks that exploit weaknesses in computer chips to access sensitive information.

5.

Developing a cancer vaccine

A cancer vaccine tested at **UCSF** reduced the risk that late-stage melanoma would return or spread when combined with standard treatment, offering hope for more [effective personalized cancer care](#). The breakthrough is possible because of **federal investment** in basic research, and continued funding will be essential to treat other cancers.

Did You Know?

UC supports more than **500,000 California jobs**, or **one in every 45 jobs** [statewide](#).

UC Health [serves patients](#) from **99% of California zip codes**, whether or not there's a UC health center in that area.

Within 10 years of graduating, [UC graduates](#) **more than double their earnings** -- and their median earnings are higher than the median earnings of other degree holders.

25th Anniversary of the UC Washington Center

Sept. 30, Washington, D.C. | 6:30 pm ET

Since opening its doors in 2001, the UC Washington Center has been the University of California's home in the nation's capital. For 25 years, the Center has brought together students, faculty, alumni, policymakers and partners to advance experiential learning, leadership, research and public service. Celebrate 25 years of impact and [RSVP now](#).

Alumni Networking Night

Oct. 14, Washington, D.C. | 6:30 pm ET

Join current UC Washington Program (UCDC) students and D.C. area UC alumni for a night of networking, exploring career opportunities and sharing stories. [Register to join](#).



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