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This has been a remarkable year for UC Santa Cruz, one defined by continued excellence in our research and creative scholarship, the advancement of social justice through efforts campuswide, and our leadership in the area where innovation and social justice intersect.

As a preeminent public research university and minority-serving institution centered on student success, we are serving California and the nation through our teaching, discovery, innovation, and entrepreneurship.

The past year has provided countless reasons to take pride in UC Santa Cruz, and this report highlights just some of the work that best demonstrates how we are creating lasting change. Individually, they are examples of the talent, collaboration, and dedication of our campus community; taken together, they reflect a university on a tremendous upward trajectory.

From earning the prestigious Seal of *Excelencia* certification in recognition of our deliberate data-driven efforts campuswide to serve Latinx students to our deep involvement with the release of the first human pangenome, the strength, energy, and determination of our Banana Slug community continue to amaze me.

I am proud of all that UC Santa Cruz has achieved and energized by what lies ahead. To chart an intentional and impactful course for the future, our campus community engaged in deep conversation over the past year to create *Leading the Change: The UC Santa Cruz Strategic Plan*.

Supporting our goals to advance student success; increase our research impact; foster an inclusive campus climate; and increase our efficiency, effectiveness, resilience, and sustainability, this plan will guide our work for years to come and further solidify our position as a leader in higher education.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Cynthia Larive". The script is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Cynthia" being more prominent than the last name "Larive".

Cynthia Larive
Chancellor

Looking to the future

A bold and sustainable vision

To build on UC Santa Cruz's incredible trajectory, the campus community charted an intentional and impactful course for the years ahead.

The result, *Leading the Change: The UC Santa Cruz Strategic Plan*, is providing opportunities for improvement and transformation impacting a wide cross-section of campus constituents and experiences.

The plan focuses on five central themes:

- Unparalleled Undergraduate Student Education and Experience
- Envisioning Graduate Education for the Future
- Distinction in Research, Scholarly and Creative Activities
- Inclusive and Thriving Campus Community
- Climate Change, Sustainability, and Resilience

The plan is supporting progress on the campus goals, including advancing student success and research impact, and has established clear metrics by which to measure success over the next decade.

In support of its sustainability goals, UC Santa Cruz is working toward full decarbonization and electrification of the campus. A task force worked with campus stakeholders to develop a long-term plan to end the use of fossil fuels by the university.

The ultimate goal is to reduce carbon emissions, ideally to zero, using current or emerging technologies and leveraging strategies and projects that have already been identified and are underway.

These plans will ensure that UC Santa Cruz remains a leader in higher education while minimizing its impact on the environment.

New housing, facilities support student success

Committed to advancing student success, UC Santa Cruz leaders are pursuing all opportunities to provide more long-term housing for current students while also ensuring that they have emergency assistance to support their basic needs.

As part of the first phase of the Kresge College renewal, this fall UC Santa Cruz opened three new residential halls to house 400 students. The site will also have a new café near the front of the Academic Plaza.

The Kresge Academic Center, also open for fall 2023, includes classrooms serving the entire campus with a 600-seat lecture hall, the largest on campus; a 150-seat lecture hall; 50- and 35-seat classrooms; a 48-seat computing lab; as well as departmental space. When the expansive project is completed in fall 2025, it will include housing for approximately 970 undergraduates, about 600 more beds than what the college originally held.



The first phase of the Kresge College renewal includes three new residential halls, pictured, and a new academic center. Construction is underway on the second phase, scheduled to be completed by fall 2025.

The campus also completed an expansion and modernization of the dining center at Rachel Carson College and Oakes College. The new building provides more interior and exterior areas for students to eat, while providing sweeping views of Monterey Bay. The kitchen building has been expanded with a new layout and features new kitchen systems to develop additional production capacity and improve service areas. The

facility also includes a demonstration kitchen for students to learn about methods of safe preparation for hot and cold dishes using induction stoves.

The campus in early 2024 is planning to begin construction of a new housing community for students with families and facilities to support the expansion of childcare services.

SOY
EL SUEÑO
MÁS SALVAJE
DE MIS ABUELAS



2021

Advancing student and alumni success

Celebrating *Excelencia*

In recognition of intentional campuswide efforts to serve Latinx students, UC Santa Cruz earned the prestigious Seal of *Excelencia*.

Following a thorough data-driven review by Excelencia in Education, UC Santa Cruz was one of only six institutions in 2022 to earn the seal for the first time. The campus is one of only eight members of the Association of American Universities also designated as a Hispanic-Serving Institution, reflecting its excellence in research, teaching, and serving a diverse student population.

The UC Santa Cruz HSI teams — made up of staff, faculty, and students — have partnered in cross-campus collaborations to create systemic change to address barriers that have disproportionately impacted students who have been minoritized in higher education. These teams seek to create educational equity by empowering students and the campus's institutional capacity to serve.

Summery welcome for new Slugs

New UC Santa Cruz students mingled with fellow incoming students and alumni at events throughout California and across the country this summer as part of the Slug Summer Send-Offs program. Incoming students and their families shared in the thrill of becoming Banana Slugs, created new connections, and learned more about what to expect when they arrive at UCSC this fall.

Started in 2022, this summer program saw 2,734 new students and family members registered for the events leading up to the 2023 – 24 academic year. The send-offs are hosted by alumni and parents at a mix of private homes and public venues. UC Santa Cruz alumni and staff, including representatives from housing and student life, student affairs, admissions, and alumni engagement, attend and share invaluable information about the university.

Supporting Black excellence

The Black Students of California United partnered with UC Santa Cruz in March for the three-day Black Excellence Student Leadership Conference. The event brought together 400 high school students from across California to celebrate leadership and civic engagement. The conference featured keynotes from Angela Davis, UC Santa Cruz distinguished professor emerita; Wisdom O. Cole (Oakes '15, chemistry), national director of the NAACP Youth & College Division; and Sharif El-Mekki, CEO of the Center for Black Educator Development, as well as workshops, networking events, and a scholarship awards gala.

Alumni Reunions re-envisioned

UC Santa Cruz bustled with alumni, students, and families during Alumni Reunion Weekend in April.



The re-envisioned weekend—focused on the golden alumni classes of 1965–1973—included intimate college gatherings, time to connect with current and admitted students, and opportunities to explore the campus.

More than 150 golden alumni gathered to celebrate their 50th (or more) reunion milestone and reconnect with the university and friends.

Giving Day success expands opportunities for students

Giving Day 2022 was record-setting, with more than \$1 million raised through gifts from more than 3,700 donors.

The 24-hour online crowdfunding contest, held in November, included a trial program to bring in advance gifts from established donors, and also engaged alumni ambassadors in a new way, encouraging and incentivizing their participation.

The seventh annual event raised funds for student success, with an emphasis on programs that provide access to financial support, secure sources for basic needs, mental health support, opportunities to participate in cutting-edge research, and connections that catalyze social mobility.

Voices for change

In June, students participated in commencement exercises on the East Field, overlooking Monterey Bay. With family and friends cheering, UC Santa Cruz celebrated nearly 5,000 students who earned their degrees.

Focused on creating real, lasting change, these new Banana Slug alumni have started the next chapter of their lives, securing jobs at leading companies, working at nonprofits and in government, and pursuing advanced degrees to further their education.



Research impact

Extramural funding



FY23

\$235M
awarded

Celebrating 25 years of trailblazing

To mark its 25th anniversary, the Jack Baskin School of Engineering led a year-long celebration to highlight the societal impact when universities support "research for good" and to focus attention on the open-source collaborative mindset on which the school was founded.

The campaign connected students, faculty and staff, alumni, industry partners, and the campus community through events and programming to collectively celebrate Baskin Engineering's impact over the past 25 years and envision the next 25 years of socially responsible innovation.

Sí, se puede

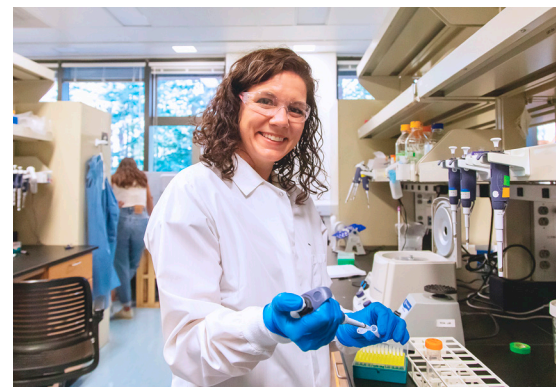
UC Santa Cruz's Research Center for the Americas celebrated 30 years of groundbreaking work with an official renaming for social justice icon Dolores Huerta.

At a sold-out campus event, Huerta delivered a resounding speech that included leading the crowd of more than 200 people in a joyous chant of "Sí, se puede," her famous mantra that has become synonymous with Latinx pride, power, and hope.

Huerta praised the impact of the research unit now known as the Huerta Center, which is the first of its kind in the UC system to combine perspectives from the fields of Latinx ethnic studies and Latin American area studies to focus on the experiences of Latinx people in the United States and the social, political, economic, and environmental forces shaping Latin America.

UC Santa Cruz joins ACLS Research University Consortium

The American Council of Learned Societies (ACLS) invited UC Santa Cruz to join the ACLS Research University Consortium, recognition of the strength and influence of the Humanities Division's long-standing excellence.



The consortium of 43 eminent institutions plays an essential leadership role in helping to sustain and enhance the national infrastructure of research in the humanities and humanistic social sciences.

“We are excited and honored to welcome the University of California, Santa Cruz, as a member of the ACLS Research University Consortium,” said ACLS President Joy Connolly. “UC Santa Cruz has a distinctive reputation for creative interdisciplinary exploration across the humanities and interpretive social sciences. Its Humanities Institute is an exemplar of public engagement.”

The UC Santa Cruz Humanities Division is recognized nationwide for its innovation and research impact as well as a distinguished alumni base that includes college presidents, cultural critics, award-winning authors, and winners of the MacArthur “Genius” Award and Marshall Scholarships.

A deeper understanding of genomic diversity

UC Santa Cruz scientists, along with a consortium of researchers, released a draft of the first human pangenome—a new, usable reference for genomics that combines the

genetic information of 47 individuals from different ancestral backgrounds. This advance will allow for a deeper, more accurate understanding of worldwide genomic diversity—and ultimately help to diagnose disease and guide treatments.

Previously, the reference genome had been mostly sourced from just one individual.

The pangenome was produced by the Human Pangenome Reference Consortium, which is co-led by UC Santa Cruz Associate Professor of Biomolecular Engineering Benedict Paten and Assistant Professor of Biomolecular Engineering Karen Miga. More than a dozen campus researchers and students are contributors to the project, which will continue into 2024 when the researchers plan to release a final pangenome with genomic information from 350 individuals.

State of the art

UC Santa Cruz’s Institute of the Arts and Sciences in February opened a new climate-controlled gallery on Santa Cruz’s Westside—the first dedicated space for the institute, and a bridge between the university’s arts community and the greater Santa Cruz arts scene.



The space features three professional galleries and a screening room, enclosed in 4,500 square feet, and is overseen by Rachel Nelson, director and chief curator of the institute.

The Institute of the Arts and Sciences is recognized nationally for cutting-edge exhibitions and events that grapple with some of the most critical dilemmas of our time, including mass incarceration, anti-racism, climate change, and issues of borders and belonging.

Mapping the earliest structures of the universe

The successful launch of the James Webb Space Telescope ushered in a new era of discovery, and UC Santa Cruz astronomers—involved with the project from the start—were among the first to use the powerful telescope.

The first images from the largest program in the James Webb Space Telescope's first year, released in July 2022, showed many types of galaxies, including dazzling examples of spiral galaxies, gravitational lensing, and evidence of galaxy mergers.

UC Santa Cruz astronomers are conducting research within each of the four main science

themes JWST will study—first stars and galaxies, galaxies over time, life cycle of stars, and planetary systems. A large group of campus astronomers are studying planets around other stars (exoplanets), one of the most exciting areas JWST is exploring.

The telescope is probing the earliest, most distant galaxies in the universe, peering into stellar nurseries shrouded in dust, and observing faint planets orbiting nearby stars, opening new windows for exploring every phase of cosmic history.

Growing sustainable, equitable food systems

The Center for Agroecology grew its research, teaching, and service programs over the past year in ways that position UC Santa Cruz to help shape the future of sustainable agriculture across California.

Professor Stacy Philpott, the center's faculty director, was awarded two USDA education grants, one for \$10 million and another for \$700,000, to support the center and its affiliated faculty in leading statewide collaboration efforts for training and educating a diverse new generation of food and agriculture professionals.



UC Santa Cruz also became an official University of California Agricultural Experiment Station, a designation that recognizes the center's more than 50 years of trailblazing impact in organic agriculture and the interdisciplinary study of social justice in food systems. The designation will enable the campus to expand its work and increase its impact to serve the region and state. The center's work providing students with access to free and low-cost food was also central to UC Santa Cruz's new roadmap for student food security, which offers a model for meeting both campus and systemwide goals.

Celebrating transformational research

Tracking COVID-19, DNA sequencing, and prison abolition were among the groundbreaking research and creative scholarship projects recognized in May by the inaugural Chancellor's Innovation Impact

Awards Program. The program celebrated the university's talented faculty, researchers, staff, students, and community partners for their outstanding contributions to innovation and creativity.

Managed by the Innovation & Business Engagement Hub, the awards recognized transformational work across UC Santa Cruz—in the arts, engineering, humanities, physical and biological sciences, and social sciences.

The award categories include Innovator of the Year, Lifetime Achievement in Innovation, and Community Changemaker. The recipients are world leaders in tracking and mapping the COVID-19 virus and its variants in real time; creators of technology that is transforming how we understand our own human DNA; abolitionists working to change the narrative and understanding of society's reliance



on prisons and policing; and community partners supporting innovators and students, helping them connect with the local ecosystem and develop as entrepreneurs.

Protecting our coasts

UC Santa Cruz's emerging Center for Coastal Climate Resilience is applying science to inform policy and practice.

The developing center represents the next step in the evolution of coastal resilience and sustainability work that's been evolving on campus for the past decade, furthering ways scientific research can affect policy. The center will be growing rapidly to represent many lines of research and training on campus.

The center was seed-funded in 2022 with \$20 million from the state of California and is working to secure more permanent funds for the future as its major areas of ongoing focus solidify.

"It's part of UC Santa Cruz's acceleration of its research focus on climate change, resilience, and coastal sustainability," said John MacMillan, vice chancellor for research, adding that center leadership plans to engage public and private partners across communities, agencies, and businesses to advance the work.

Welcoming new leaders

Ranked first in the nation for racial and gender diversity in leadership, UC Santa Cruz welcomed six new leaders who are bringing fresh perspectives and new ideas about how to continue to advance the university's mission.



Bryan Gaensler
Dean of the Division of
Physical and Biological
Sciences



Aisha Jackson
Vice Chancellor for
Information Technology



John MacMillan
Vice Chancellor for Research



Anju Reejhsinghani
Vice Chancellor for
Diversity, Equity,
and Inclusion



Ed Reiskin
Vice Chancellor for
Finance, Operations
and Administration



Eréndira Rubin
Chief Campus Counsel

UC Santa Cruz Foundation



The trustees of the UC Santa Cruz Foundation care deeply about the success of current and future UC Santa Cruz students, and ensuring that they have access to healthy food is fundamental to furthering student success.

We were inspired by the campus's focus on supporting food security among students, and we committed to providing additional resources to advance this important work.

University life can be demanding and stressful, and when students struggle to meet their fundamental requirements such as food and housing, they cannot focus as much on their studies and personal growth.

By providing a safety net for these basic needs, we not only ensure a more equitable and inclusive learning environment, but also empower students to thrive and reach their full potential.

Addressing these challenges not only improves student retention rates, but also fosters a campus environment in which students feel valued and supported. Investing in the basic needs of university students is a vital step toward building a brighter future, equipping them with the tools to become successful, confident, and engaged members of society.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. J. Moss'.

Richard Moss (Stevenson '85)
Chair, UC Santa Cruz Foundation



Foundation helping to increase food security

“We are very strong proponents of student success, which is a signature effort by the chancellor to make this a better campus. If you can’t eat and you don’t have housing, you’re not going to study.”

Foundation Board Chair Richard Moss

UC Santa Cruz’s Basic Needs programs served nearly 6,400 students in the past academic year, though the support needs continue to be beyond current resources. Seeing an opportunity to support students, the UCSC Foundation Board of Trustees stepped in with funding to plan for the future.

“We are very strong proponents of student success, which is a signature effort by the chancellor to make this a better campus,” said Board Chair Richard Moss. “If you can’t eat and you don’t have housing, you’re not going to study.”

The trustees committed to providing \$75,000 to support efforts addressing

food insecurity and delivering a plan to make these resources sustainable.

In June the campus held a benefit dinner to support UCSC’s food security roadmap project, fundraising that “will result in students receiving food, assistance in qualifying for CalFresh funding, and education about other pathways to food security, as well as life skills and basic nutrition,” said Moss.

The dinner raised more than \$110,000, and over the next two years, UC Santa Cruz is working to raise \$1.2 million to support reducing food and housing insecurity by 50 percent by 2025.



By the numbers

Philanthropy



\$59.6M
raised

Endowment

(UCSC Foundation and Regents)

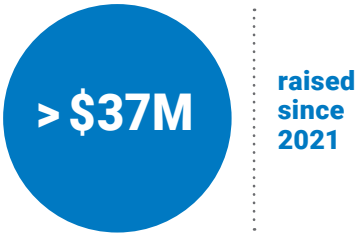
FY23

\$282,128,507

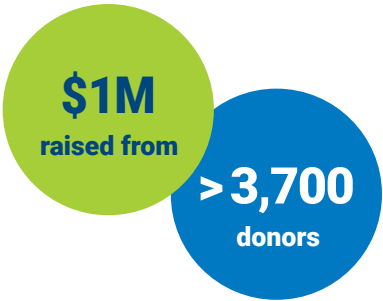
FY22

\$269,442,620

Student Success Initiative



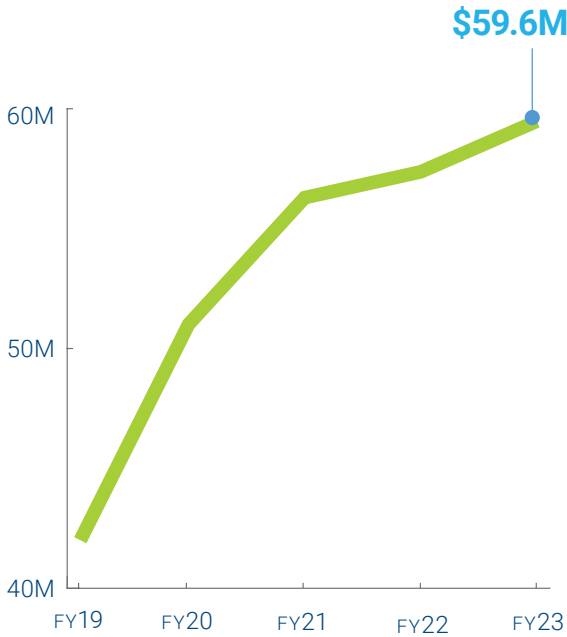
Giving Day



Fundraising totals by division, FY23

\$4,410,421	Arts
\$12,089,524	Baskin Engineering
\$1,734,438	Humanities
\$20,674,062	Physical and Biological Sciences
\$5,206,670	Social Sciences
\$161,437	Library
\$15,194,660	Other programs*

Fundraising totals by year, FY19–23 (\$)



* Other university programs: Graduate Division, Student Success, Undergraduate Education, and more



Philanthropic support is critical in advancing the mission of UC Santa Cruz, and I'm incredibly thankful for our generous donors who provided \$59.6 million in support this past academic year.

In our second-highest year for fundraising in the campus's history, these gifts directly support our students through scholarships, fellowships, and experiential learning opportunities. They also enable UC Santa Cruz researchers to pursue innovative ideas designed to create real, lasting change that benefits our society.

UC Santa Cruz is an incredible institution, in part because of the supporters who see how much the campus is accomplishing and how much more is possible with their support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark Delos Reyes Davis'.

Mark Delos Reyes Davis
President, UC Santa Cruz Foundation, and Vice Chancellor for University Relations



THE REAL
CHANGE
IS US