

CONNEXXUS TRAVEL NEWSLETTER

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT | UC TRAVEL MANAGEMENT



January – March 2013

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UPDATING CONNEXXUS

The Connexus Travel Program is currently being reviewed and providers assessed as part of a major redesign effort to improve the site and strengthen user experience.

As a systemwide travel program that combines discounts with a range of booking options Connexus offers UC travelers excellent pricing, however initial design efforts did not include nor address the needs of all UC communities.

History of Connexus:

The Connexus program was started in response to the Board of Regents concerns over the level of travel spend throughout the UC system and the absence of any information or travel management process. In 2007, a Central Travel Office was established and a systemwide Travel Council convened.

Systemwide implementation of Connexus began in 2008 into 2011 and regular assessments indicate a savings of \$13 million for a 2 year period beginning in 2010. Connexus is currently processing 45% of the total estimated air travel bookings (approximately 75,000 transactions).

Upgrading to Connexus 2.0:

The following survey was created in an attempt to gather opinion and commentary on travel priorities from as many different groups as possible:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/connexus>

It is our hope that campus participation will offer an opportunity for as many campus populations to speak to and drive major design decisions.



NEWS FROM AIRLINE PARTNERS



AMERICAN AIRLINES AND US AIRWAYS ANNOUNCE MERGER OF TWO AIRLINES

The two airlines have announced plans to come together to create the new American Airlines. The combined company will retain the iconic, globally recognized American Airlines brand and will have a robust global network, a strong financial foundation and one of the most modern and efficient fleets in the industry.

▶ [Read more](#)

THE NEW AMERICAN IS ARRIVING

AA reveals a new look. See how they’re making history at www.aa.com/newamerican.



NATIONWIDE DOUBLE POINTS PROMOTION

Southwest has announced a Rapid Rewards point promotion. From now through May 15, 2013, you can earn **double points** on every flight you take on Southwest Airlines®; this is **in addition to the Connexus bonus point agreement!**

Step 1: [Register online](#)

Step 2: Book your Southwest trips via the UC SWABIZ link found in the [Connexus portal](#).



EARN UP TO TRIPLE ELEVATE® POINTS

Register now and fly by June 30 to earn double Elevate points for all your flights along the West Coast. Plus, earn up to triple Elevate points after your second round-trip on our newest routes from San Francisco to Austin, Los Angeles to Las Vegas, and San Jose to Los Angeles, and between San Francisco or Los Angeles and Philadelphia.

<http://www.virginamerica.com/vx/doubletriplepoints>

★★★★★★★★★★
Experience Virgin America

www.experiencevirginamerica.com

★★★★★★★★★★

WE’RE IN A NEWARK STATE OF MIND

Get ready for new rides to and from Newark, complete with fleet-wide WiFi. We’re sending our mood-lit fleet to the Garden State for three daily nonstop flights between San Francisco (SFO), Los Angeles (LAX), and New Jersey’s Newark International Airport (EWR). Seats are on sale now for travel starting April 2.

▶ [Read more](#)

NEW ROUTE: DAILY FLIGHTS FROM SAN JOSE TO LOS ANGELES

Virgin America, the airline that is reinventing domestic travel and the only airline headquartered in the Bay Area, announces it will bring its low-fare, upscale service to Norman Y. Mineta San Jose International Airport (SJC) as of May 1, 2013, with tickets on sale February 5 for four daily roundtrip flights from SJC to Los Angeles International Airport (LAX).

▶ [Read more](#)

NEW NONSTOP SERVICE TO AUSTIN AND ANCHORAGE

Virgin America will bring its low-fare, tech-forward flights to Austin-Bergstrom International Airport (AUS) beginning May 21, 2013. Tickets are on sale today for a daily nonstop roundtrip flight from the carrier’s home base at San Francisco International Airport (SFO) to the Texas capital - also known as the “the live music capital of the world.”

▶ [Read more](#)

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NEWS FROM CAR RENTAL PARTNERS



Emerald Club Member's Corner

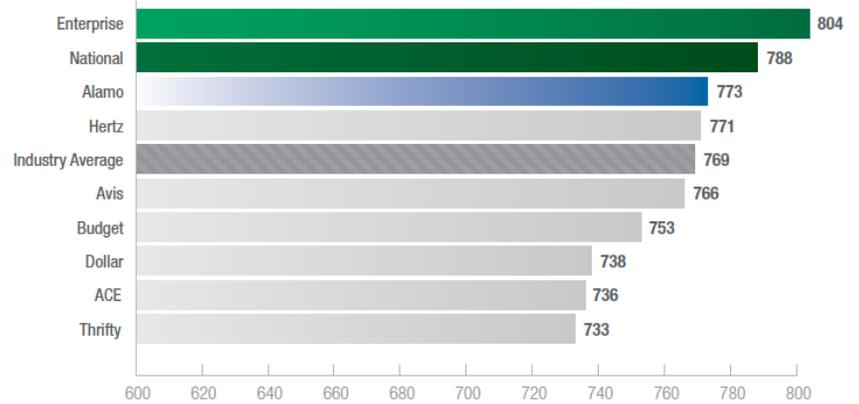
Emerald Club members can access their past rental receipts online 24/7 if they need to reprint one for expense reports or any other reason.

www.emeraldclub.com

ENTERPRISE RENT-A-CAR, NATIONAL CAR RENTAL AND ALAMO RENT A CAR RECEIVE TOP THREE SPOTS IN J.D. POWER AND ASSOCIATES 2012 RENTAL CAR SATISFACTION STUDY

The study, which surveyed leisure and business travelers who rented vehicles at North American airports, ranked Enterprise Rent-A-Car highest in customer satisfaction in the industry, followed in order by National Car Rental and Alamo Rent A Car. With the industry customer satisfaction scores at their highest in seven years, all three brands finished above the industry average and improved their scores from the prior year, with the Alamo brand showing the most improvement in ranking year-over-year.

▶ [Read more](#)



Following the huge success of our Carfirmation™ mobile alert service, Hertz has launched another exciting first – the Carfirmation™ Upgrade

In three simple clicks of a smart phone, our travelers can choose to change their allocated car to either an upgrade or deal of the day for an additional daily charge, or to a different car in the same class for no additional charge. This exciting new service is available at our top 50 airports in the US and expanding to more soon. It's simple, fast and smart – that's what we mean by Traveling at the Speed of Hertz!



GET YOUR "CARFIRMATION"™ AND KNOW THE CAR YOU DRIVE BEFORE YOU ARRIVE

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NEWS FROM HOTEL PARTNERS



MARRIOTT HAS TWO EXCITING NEW RESIDENCE INN PROPERTIES THAT ARE OFFERING COMPELLING UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA RATES TO ALL UC CAMPUS TRAVELERS IN 2013. CHECK THEM OUT!

Residence Inn by Marriott Del Mar

3525 Valley Centre Drive · San Diego, California 92130

The Residence Inn by Marriott Del Mar **opening April 2013**

- ◆ Centrally located just 8 minutes from the UCSD campus
- ◆ Centrally located in the Del Mar/Carmel Highlands area of northern San Diego
- ◆ Beautiful all suites property boasts 118 spacious studio, one and two bedroom suites with separate living and sleeping areas
- ◆ Fully equipped kitchen and complimentary grocery delivery service
- ◆ Complimentary high speed internet
- ◆ Full hot complimentary breakfast buffet every day and evening social hours midweek
- ◆ Relax and unwind with the outdoor pool and state of the art fitness center

Courtyard by Marriott Santa Barbara/Goleta

401 Storke Road · Goleta, California 93117

The Courtyard by Marriott Santa Barbara/Goleta **opened in 2012**

- ◆ Within 3 miles of the UCSB campus
- ◆ Located along the Highway 101 corridor
- ◆ Discover décor rich in Santa Barbara's Spanish history
- ◆ Modern amenities in spacious guest rooms including plush bedding
- ◆ Comfortable work spaces with complimentary high speed internet
- ◆ Relax around the outdoor space with fire pits or take a dip in the pool
- ◆ The state of the art lobby features The Bistro, offering great breakfast, drinks and dinner

*Visit the
Connexus
portal to book
your hotel
reservations*



STARWOOD PREFERRED GUEST® (SPG®) WOULD LIKE TO OFFER YOU AN SPG MEMBERSHIP

Get the goods — Starwood offers the University of California a substantial discount on hotel rooms globally, included in this special offer is membership in Starwood Preferred Guest. As university employees, you are entitled to:

- ◆ Two Starpoints® for every eligible U.S. dollar spent at participating hotels
- ◆ Enhanced room at check-in
- ◆ 4 p.m. late checkout

SPG gives you more ways to play. Your membership allows you to redeem your Starpoints for Free Night Awards without blackout dates. If there's a standard room available, it's yours — even during holidays and big events. You can also redeem for airline tickets, one-of-a-kind experiences, in-hotel indulgences and more. Or convert your Starpoints to frequent-flyer miles. It's up to you!

- ▶ Visit the [Connexus portal](#) to sign-up for the Connexus SPG membership.

CONNEXUS TRAVEL AGENCIES



NEW YEAR, NEW TRAVEL ITINERARY!

In February BCD Travel, made changes to our electronic ticket receipts that will give you easy access to useful information:

- ◆ CO₂ emissions information noted for your air, car, rail and hotel travel segments
- ◆ An “add-to-calendar” link that lets you import the trip into your Outlook or Lotus notes calendar with one click (Google calendar is coming soon!)
- ◆ A link that leads you to directions to your hotel on your computer or smart phone
- ◆ Subject lines will show “Updated” when a change has been made to the itinerary
- ◆ A new option to print just your pertinent travel information with a “printer friendly” link

Take a look at the **new communication**. We hope these changes will help you travel a bit easier.

ONLINE BOOKINGS VIA CONCUR TRAVEL

More and more airlines are offering fares that allow you to book different airlines throughout your trip. Often these provide a good savings, but there are some things to consider when choosing the best value.

 All 325 results	 Delta ◆◆	 American ◆◆	 Multiple Carriers
1 stop 181 results	387.58 36 results	389.66 32 results	348.52 42 results

- ➔ Carefully review your itinerary for instructions on which airline you will check in with.
- ➔ If you are connecting from one airline to another, your connecting flight may be located in a terminal that is different than your arrival airport.
- ➔ When you check your bags, alert the airline you are connecting to a different airline to ensure that your bag is checked through to your final destination.
- ➔ Missed connections when flights are delayed are more easily resolved when your trip is on one airline.
- ➔ When two airlines are used in a trip we are sometimes required to issue two separate tickets. If your trip changes and your tickets need to be reissued, you would be subject to two airline change fees if both your departure and return changes. (Usually \$150 each plus fare differences for domestic tickets.)
- ➔ *** International tickets have special considerations for using mixed airlines. If you need help determining the special considerations with mixed airlines, please book your international mixed airline trips with a full service agent for advisement of all airline fare rules ***

CONTINUED – TRAVEL AGENCIES FOR CONNEXXUS**Berkeley's
Northside Travel**

Berkeley's Northside Travel is part of the Connexus Small Business Travel Program. The agency has been at 1824 Euclid Ave for 33 years, ½ block from UC Berkeley's North Gate. It is the oldest full service travel agency in the city of Berkeley.

The owner, Terry Regan CTC, has been a travel agent in the city of Berkeley for 40 years. He holds a B.A. in history from Stanford but he enjoys living in Berkeley since 1973. Terry was a Peace Corps Volunteer on the island of Antigua. He has visited over 140 countries. Currently he visited India to check out the Mumbai Marathon and **G Adventures** Southern India small group tour product.

Terry's advice to UC travelers: discover what a good travel agent can do to make travel less stressful.

Travel is a service industry. And the good travel agents at Northside Travel are educated, widely traveled and current in their travel knowledge. They take pride in their work. UC Nobel Laureates have been loyal customers for over 30 years.

- ▶ Visit the [Connexus portal](#) for contact information.

TRAVEL EVENT**THE 13TH ANNUAL UCLA TRAVEL FAIR**

The 13th Annual UCLA Travel Fair was held on Tuesday, February 12th, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Ackerman Union Grand Ballroom.

This year's fair was comprised of over 65 travel suppliers including many of the University's Connexus preferred vendors. Participants had the opportunity to enter into drawings for the more than 30 fabulous prizes.

Prizes included:

- ◆ Airline tickets or upgrade certificates and rail tickets
- ◆ Hotel stays in properties from San Diego to Oakland
- ◆ Rental car and airport parking gift certificates and more!



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CONNEXXUS KUDOS

For Diana Nielsen, UCI –

"On Dee's recommendation I've started using Connexus...For most of the last four years I have made numerous trips to the Office of the President. The Southwest system worked extremely well once it was set up...This year because of grants we will probably have 20 domestic and 30 international flights using Connexus. This makes it extremely easy to accommodate arrangements from all over the world and to be very respectful of staff time.

The times that we have agreed for international travelers to make their own arrangements have proven to be time consuming...I take the time to write because you are creating a much improved system."

- John M. Whiteley, Professor, School of Social Ecology

For Sandra Ihim, BCD Travel Agent –

A UC Davis guest took the time to recognize Sandra, "I just had to express my gratitude and let you know what excellent service I received from Sandra while coordinating tickets for my son and husband who are accompanying me on my business trip. I'm exceedingly grateful for all the time she spent and for her polite professional manner."

A UC Berkeley arranger wrote, "I just want you to know how much I appreciate you and your professional, yet personal level of service. You are a true gem and I look forward to working with you."

For Teresa Strickler, BCD Travel Agent –

"You are the greatest, you Rock!", was the response that Teresa received after receiving a call from a UCSF traveler who needed to change his departure from Monday afternoon to the evening on the Sunday after Thanksgiving. "Through Teresa's efforts, we were able to make the change with minimal increase in the ticket cost."



TRAVEL NEWS & LINKS

- ❖ [The IRS Boosts Business Mileage Rates for 2013](#)
- ❖ [How To Avoid The Flu Epidemic While Traveling](#)
- ❖ [G-28, Policy and Regulation Governing Travel](#)
- ❖ [Connexus Newsletter Archive](#)
- ❖ [Transportation Security Administration \(TSA\)](#)
- ❖ [U.S. State Department Travel Info](#)

The IRS Boosts Business Mileage Rates for 2013

The Internal Revenue Service announced it will raise its business mileage rate for the use of a car (also vans, pickups or panel trucks) by a penny to 56.5 cents per mile, effective January 1, 2013.

The standard mileage rate for business is based on an annual study of the fixed and variable costs of operating an automobile.



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CONNEXXUS TRAINING

The Connexus Travel Office provides on campus and webinar training to promote the use of Connexus. Training is offered to all faculty and staff along with individualized workshops tailored to departmental needs. Contact the Connexus Travel Office for more details: UCTravel@ucop.edu.

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