

At UC, there's no shortage of visionaries. Everywhere you look, there's someone shaping the future in a profound way. UC President James B. Milliken recently sat down with the [Los Angeles Times](#) and shared his vision for the University as a place that leads on artificial intelligence and adapts for lifelong learning. His philosophy that "talent is universal, but opportunity often isn't" means it's the role of universities like UC to provide opportunity for California students, something we do through comprehensive financial aid packages, expanding course offerings and providing research experiences to create even more opportunities for California's future workforce and leaders.

The students, alumni, staff and faculty at our ten campuses are all embracing that vision -- and they're being recognized for their leadership. The Department of Energy (DOE) recently shared its [early career research awards winners](#), and several UC-affiliated scientists won. Two more UC scientists were just appointed to the [DOE Office of Science Advisory Committee](#). Nearly 60 UC innovators were featured on the 2026 [Forbes "30 Under 30" list](#). And UCLA student Alyssa Liu's [gold medal winning performance](#) at the 2026 Winter Olympics made clear that having a vision and dedication should also be joyful.

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

What We're Watching

1.

National security innovation

UC San Diego recently launched the [FORGE](#) (Future Operations Research and Global Expertise), a new initiative aligning defense priorities with the researchers, startups and partners who can deliver practical solutions. Through the Innovating for National Security program, the campus is working directly with the **Department of Defense (DOD)** to collaborate on solving complex defense challenges, bring innovative national security solutions to market, place students in internships and so much more.

2.

Powering innovation

At **UCSF**, funding from the **National Institutes of Health (NIH)** is fueling an [innovation and economic boom](#) in the Bay Area and beyond -- transforming patient care, enabling discovery and driving the science that develops new treatments for diseases and keeps the U.S. at the forefront of health and science.

3.

Reflections from a Nobel Prize winner

UC Berkeley professor Omar Yaghi developed the technology to capture clean water from dry air, earning him the [Nobel Prize](#) in 2025. His research is supported by more than a dozen federal grants from the **National Science Foundation (NSF)**, the **DOE** and **DOD**.

4.

Uncovering causes of valve narrowing

With funding from the **NSF** and the **NIH**, scientists at **UC Irvine** are examining how two different causes of the same condition, [valve narrowing](#), affect the heart in very different ways. The condition is becoming more common, and this research helps doctors develop personalized treatment plans to improve the health and quality of life for patients.

5.

AI for agriculture

At the **USDA-NIFA AI Institute for Next Generation Food Systems** at **UC Davis**, established by the **NSF** in 2020, scientists are using technology to [revolutionize our food system](#). They're using AI to uncover the chemistry of our food, including why certain diets keep us healthier, and are even creating an app to help consumers make better decisions about what, and why, they're eating.

Did You Know?

UC's [four-year graduation rate](#) for all students is **74%**, even higher than the [68% rate](#) at peer institutions.

There are **900** [degree programs](#) available across UC campuses.

UC offers **170** [academic disciplines](#) for students to explore in their studies.

From Coast to Capital

UC Washington Center: Upcoming Events

Washington, D.C.

Upcoming events at UCDC can be explored [online here](#), including an alumni treat exchange on April 11 and UC night at the Nationals on April 17.

The UC Washington Center (UCDC) serves as a live-learn facility for the University in the nation's capital, offering a dynamic environment for education, research and engagement.

Hire DMV: Multi-University Alumni Career Fair

College Park, MD | April 15 | 11 am - 2 pm

This career fair will connect UC alumni in the DMV area, as well as graduate and postdoctoral students, with over 60 employers in top industries. UC is a partner university for this event. [Register here](#).



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