UC Pulse

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

Throughout May and June, the University of California's nine undergraduate campuses will be hosting commencement ceremonies and welcoming new members to the state's workforce. Each year, there are more than 60,000 bachelor's degree recipients and the majority stay in California to work after graduation. On average, they more than double their salaries within ten years of graduation. Behind those numbers are real people whose ideas, discoveries and leadership are already shaping California's future.

Across the UC system, students and researchers are tackling some of society's biggest challenges, from critical workforce shortages to breakthroughs in public health and artificial intelligence. At UC Santa Barbara, for example, the National Science Foundation-funded Integrated Networking, Scholarship and Peer Interaction for First-Year Engineers (INSPIRE) program is helping address the engineering workforce shortage and improving student retention in engineering majors. Heading into fall 2026, the program is anticipated to grow participation by 127% and maintain 100% retention, redefining how we think about engineering education. That same spirit of innovation was on display at UC's annual Grad Slam competition, where graduate students presented research addressing urgent national and global challenges, including machine learning for food safety, disrupting the body's response to Valley Fever and breakthroughs in Alzheimer's and breast cancer.

It's an exciting time across our campuses as students prepare to go out into the world and solve today's most pressing problems -- and a reminder of the vital role federal partnerships play in expanding opportunity and driving innovation for California and the nation.

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

What We're Watching

1.

Safe from cyberattacks
A **UC Santa Cruz** researcher received an **NSF** CAREER award to develop safer and more secure hardware for cloud computing and data centers, which would protect sensitive

information from cyberattacks -- making the systems people use daily, from banking to health care and government services, more reliable. The NSF funding will also train the next generation of students and graduate researchers in cybersecurity and advanced computing.

2.

Using AI to solve math problems
A team of computer scientists and mathematicians at **UCLA** received a grant from the **Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA)** to develop AI tools aimed at transforming how mathematical discoveries are made, formalized and verified. The project will speed up the development of mathematical reasoning while maintaining precision, bridging human intuition with machine learning.

3.

Filling in the cosmic map
At **UC Riverside**, researchers used data from **NASA's James Webb Space Telescope** to make the most detailed map of the cosmic web. The telescope allows astronomers to see farther back in time than ever before. Using advanced observations and computing tools, the team revealed structures that help scientists better understand how galaxies form, evolve and interact over billions of years.

4.

Hope for children with rare diseases
Researchers at **UC Davis** now understand the cellular structure that malfunctions in children with rare genetic diseases, which currently have no treatment. Supported by the **National Institutes of Health (NIH)**, the research will enable new treatments and a better understanding of the conditions impacting young children.

5.

New TB technology
UCSF researchers developed a portable tuberculosis test that can deliver fast, accurate results in just minutes. The technology could help more people get diagnosed and treated earlier, especially in communities without easy access to hospitals or labs. Funding from the **NIH** and the **State Department** made the breakthrough possible.

Did You Know?

The University of California is involved in the management

of **three U.S. national laboratories**, including Lawrence Livermore National Lab, Lawrence Berkeley National Lab and Los Alamos National Lab.

UC Agriculture and Natural Resources supports **$300 billion in annual economic impact** from California's working landscapes.

70% of UC students participate in original research or creative projects.

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

Federal Governmental Relations
1608 Rhode Island Ave. NW
2nd Floor
Washington, D.C. 20036
(202) 974-6300