UC Davis has always been guided by an unswerving mission: to serve the public through our ideas, innovations and discoveries. This mission is evergreen—but the strategies we pursue are ever-evolving to meet the needs of a changing world.

At a time when our planet and its people face unprecedented challenges, UC Davis is reimagining the vital links that connect university, community and society. From mitigating environmental harms to creating more equitable pathways to health care, social justice and economic stability, there has never been a more critical need for scholarship and collaborations that build more resilient communities—locally, nationally and globally.

Public Scholarship and Engagement (PSE)—the first office of its kind in the University of California system—is UC Davis’ principal engine for driving and coordinating these pursuits. A model of university-led public impact, its creation reflects UC Davis’ deep commitment to fostering a culture of engagement that enriches everyday lives, strengthens communities and helps to shape sound public policy.

Now, we have a vision to deepen and expand this work as we reaffirm and refocus our mission to better serve our interdependent world. Together, we will forge mutually beneficial community partnerships and invest in the public impact of our faculty’s work, while engaging our students as active partners in these efforts—providing the experience and expertise that prepare them for leadership as tomorrow’s change agents.

The future health of our planet and the well-being of our communities depend on engaged scholarship that imagines a better world. Now is the time to seed the innovations and collaborations that will make this possible.

An Invitation

Philanthropic support plays a vital role in advancing UC Davis research, education and collaborations that make the world a better place. We invite the partnership of university friends who share our vision of discovery, learning and engagement for the public good.
Advancing the Public Good in a Changing World: Public Scholarship and Engagement

Engaged scholarship and service that change our world

A law professor whose research in Rwanda inspired her to address unequal access to legal services in California’s rural communities. A veterinarian whose work with newborn foals could transform how we diagnose and treat childhood autism. A graduate student and Mellon Public Scholar who draws on his own experience to advocate for more just and equitable pathways for undocumented students. A robotics engineer who designs human-machine interfaces that foster greater independence and well-being for people with paralysis and severe mobility issues.

On any given day, UC Davis faculty, clinicians, staff and students are collaborating with communities near and far—changing the world through their expertise, passion and partnership.

Public Scholarship and Engagement is instrumental to coordinating hundreds of efforts like these across UC Davis and facilitating scholarly work for maximum impact. Philanthropic support plays an equally vital role in expanding the reach of these endeavors locally and globally.

Partnering for the public good

Your generosity makes a powerful difference in the communities we serve. Partner with us by:

Supporting students with fellowships that provide real-world experiences with a civic purpose

Supporting community-engaged learning courses so that every UC Davis student has the opportunity to participate in meaningful hands-on projects

Supporting innovation and discovery that connect research to policies and practices that sustain healthier communities

Supporting a community scholars program that allows community members, faculty and students to work together on projects that serve local organizations

Supporting public lectures, forums and workshops that bring UC Davis and community members together to spark civic innovation and creativity

For more information about supporting Public Scholarship and Engagement, contact Lauren Kidd, Assistant Vice Chancellor for School and Unit Programs, at klkidd@ucdavis.edu or (530) 754-2023.