



# FOR THE **PUBLIC GOOD**

2020: YEAR IN REVIEW





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*It’s impossible to teach or provide community health without being integrated with the community. You can’t teach community health or want students to pursue it as a career if you don’t see it in action in your training.*

*Stephany Sanchez, School of Medicine*



# A Message from the Vice Provost

I want to acknowledge the tremendous support and encouragement that have allowed us to grow in our first full year of operation as the office of Public Scholarship and Engagement. From the individuals who led our search committees and served on our advisory boards to the leaders working to expand experiential learning opportunities and community partnerships, this past year demonstrated the power of collaboration – amidst a global pandemic, no less. It has also illuminated the urgent need to continue these efforts.

As UC Davis extends its reach locally, regionally, and across the globe, I ask you to continue supporting our students, faculty, and staff as they develop strategic partnerships centered on impactful teaching, learning, research and creative activity. We will continue to foster these kinds of meaningful relationships between communities and UC Davis scholars, centered on reciprocity and recognition, mutual benefit and public impact, and look forward to your continued support.

## **MICHAEL RIOS**

Vice Provost, Public Scholarship and Engagement  
Professor of Urban Design  
University of California, Davis







# For the Public Good, Together

Public Scholarship and Engagement is a university-wide office serving both campuses and all ten colleges and schools. Public scholarship at UC Davis aims to have a positive public impact and is inclusive of different disciplines and diverse forms of scholarship in terms of research and creative activity, teaching and learning, equity and leadership. We envision a university unbound that seeks to serve the public, equitably and inclusively, resulting in reciprocal and mutual benefit to California's communities and beyond.

Our mission is to build and support meaningful relationships between communities and UC Davis scholars that work together to solve today's problems and tomorrow's challenges.

## The three primary roles of PSE are to:

**Champion** public scholarship that advances the university's production of knowledge, learning, and leadership.

**Convene** individuals and groups to build relationships, partnerships, and networks.

**Connect** communities to university resources through research and student learning experiences, technical assistance and training, workshops and events.

**“** *I have found the more you engage people and treat them as partners, the better off we all are.*

*Jonathan Eisen, College of Biological Sciences  
& School of Medicine*



# Championing

## **We believe change is imagined.**

Change requires collective action that is informed by our past experiences and present circumstances. It is based on the values we hold and the type of futures we imagine for ourselves, our communities, and the planet.

## **Provost's Work Group on Public Scholarship**

In 2020, a group of faculty representing all four colleges and six professional schools convened to explore ways to achieve greater recognition of public scholarship at UC Davis. Their specific charge was to: a) identify barriers to public scholarship, b) explore strategies to reward and recognize public scholarship, and c) recommend changes to institutional policies and practices, where appropriate. Their recommendations center around five main themes: Merit, Promotion, and Tenure; Faculty Development; Education, Awareness, and Recognition; Faculty Resources; and Faculty Recruitment and Retention.

**“** *I really like that the Provost's Work Group report highlights the collaborative nature of this work: it points out who will need to work together to solve these problems which I think is an important and strategic approach. The report also considers what the barriers will be so it doesn't feel unrealistic to me, it feels very grounded in reality.*

*Tessa Hill, Associate Vice Provost, Public Scholarship and Engagement*





A person wearing a blue long-sleeved shirt is holding a large, vibrant green leaf. The background is a soft-focus outdoor scene with trees and foliage. The text is overlaid on a dark blue semi-transparent box on the right side of the image.

## Public Impact Research Initiative

The Public Impact Research Initiative was established in spring 2020 to recognize UC Davis faculty and support research that will have a public impact – meaning it is useful to, and developed in concert with, diverse constituents beyond the university. These types of collaborations with non-university partners allow our faculty and researchers to see the transformative effects on their research: public scholarship not only improves research questions and methods but also deepens their relationships with community partners. Through the initiative, 20 UC Davis faculty from six colleges and schools worked together with community organizations on 14 funded projects.

### ***Enhancing Research Capacity for Yurok Food Sovereignty***

Katherine Kim from the Betty Irene Moore School of Nursing partnered with the Nature Rights Council – a non-profit organization in the Klamath Basin led by Yurok Tribe member Samuel Gensaw – to increase the research and evaluation capacity for staff of the Council and other members of the local community and Tribes managing the food sovereignty program.

**“** *[This collaboration is about] wanting to understand how to do our own studies, learn how to do grant writing, and make more connections. All around be able to provide healthy opportunities to our communities.*

*Samuel Gensaw, Nature Rights Council*



# Convening

**We believe public engagement is vital to the university's mission.**

Our greatest challenges cannot be adequately or fully addressed from a single point of view. Our success depends on our ability to listen and learn, share and generate knowledge with others.

## Community Engaged Learning Faculty Fellows

The Community Engaged Learning Faculty Fellows program supports individuals looking to create and improve community-based student learning experiences that will cultivate and foster a culture of engagement at UC Davis. The first cohort included UC Davis faculty from across disciplines – from design and plant sciences to education and medicine.

## Public Scholarship Faculty Fellows

The Public Scholarship Faculty Fellows program supports individuals interested in translating their engaged research and practices into academic publications. The first cohort included faculty members from across disciplines whose project topics span environmental health disparities and green gentrification to criminal justice reform and Korean immigrant activism.

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*The Community Engaged Learning Faculty Fellows program has really inspired me to think about things differently for this course. All of my outreach and collaboration have come out of long-term relationships where you build trust, and learn from each other.*

*Valerie Eviner, College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences*







## Charting the Future of Experiential Learning

To address UC Davis' response to the growing literature on the importance of experiential learning for today's university students and the disproportionate access available, Public Scholarship and Engagement, the Internship and Career Center, Global Affairs, Undergraduate Education, Office of the Provost STEM Strategies, and the Mike and Renee Child Institute for Innovation and Entrepreneurship came together to organize a campus-wide convening. In February 2020, a group of 50 UC Davis faculty, staff, and administrators gathered for the Charting the Future of Experiential Learning at UC Davis Symposium to assess the state of experiential learning at the institution and develop ways to increase participation.

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*Even for my professors, there are things that I've experienced that you can't get from a book. I think a lot of professors are fascinated by how I've been able to transition from prison and reintegrate into society and make it.*

*George Villa, Center for Regional Change*





# Connecting

## **We believe relationships matter.**

Personal relationships ground the work we do and are based on trust and reciprocity, collaboration and mutual benefit. We seek out and endeavor to build meaningful relationships in ways that begin with humility and empathy, invite curiosity, enlarge our sense of belonging, and bring meaning and purpose to our lives.

## **Collaborative Workshops**

### ***Communicating the Value of Research to Public Audiences***

In partnership with the GradPathways Institute for Professional Development and Graduate Studies, Public Scholarship and Engagement led an interactive workshop for graduate students across disciplines, designed to help them identify their goals and objectives in reaching the public, better understand their target audience, and share their research in a clear and meaningful way.

“

*That's the first thing that you learn, that they are partners with you, and only they know what's best for them. We interact with our community partners with utmost appreciation and respect.*

*Sanjay Joshi, College of Engineering*





### **Cultivating Community Based Global Learning through Course Curricula**

As part of Global Affairs Curriculum Enhancement through Global Learning Program, Public Scholarship and Engagement led a workshop focused on community-based global learning, featuring panelists from the Center for Regional Change, the Department of Biological and Agricultural Engineering, the Department of Chicana/o Studies and the Department of Spanish and Portuguese. This is part of an effort to further integrate public scholarship within UC Davis' colleges, schools, and other academic units.

### **Grant Writing Workshop with the Global Learning Hub**

To increase opportunities for students to participate in community engagement domestically and internationally, Public Scholarship and Engagement partnered with the Blum Center for Developing Economies within Global Affairs, offering an eight-week grant-writing course that prepared undergraduate students to apply for Poverty Alleviation Through Action grants.

**“** *[Human Rights Studies]...is built around the proposition that the gap between theory and practice must be closed and that Human Rights advocates, activists, defenders and academics can operate as a whole committed to building just societies. It also follows from my own belief that the modern American public research university has the potential to be the greatest force for good ever imagined.*

*Keith David Watenpaugh, College of Letters and Science*



## Event Co-Sponsorships

Creating a culture of engagement that increases the university's public impact is a collective effort. Public Scholarship and Engagement provided co-sponsorship funding for training, workshops, film screenings, lectures, discussions and more that contribute to UC Davis research, teaching and learning that serves society and makes a positive difference in the world.

### **Building Community Engaged Scholarship**

Hosted by Deserea Langley, Native American Studies and Professors for the Future

This online workshop series featured Native American scholars sharing their experiences in community engaged scholarship. The events highlighted how these scholars have formed partnerships with communities to support and share issues that affect underrepresented communities and how they work to balance community engaged scholarship with teaching, research, and service - inspiring future community engaged scholars.

### **Documenting Black History and Culture Across the Diaspora**

Hosted by Imagining America

Writer, activist, educator, editor, social commentator and cultural broker Daphne Muse, shared anecdotes, stories and visuals of her letter collection documenting the struggles waged, victories claimed, and rites of passage celebrated in the civil rights, Black Power, pan-Africanist, women's, and disability rights movements. She shared the stage with Dr. Kevin Miller, UC Davis archivist, both underscoring the importance of documentation as a tool for social justice and cultural change.

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*I've committed my life to doing work that brings people together in solidarity and to create a society that allows all people to survive and thrive.*

*Sandy Holman, The Culture CO-OP*







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