

UNDERGRADUATE EDUCATION AND
STUDENT AFFAIRS PRESENT



This conference is made possible through a partnership between Undergraduate Education and the Division of Student Affairs and funds generated by ATM Campus Agreements.

Conference Mission

This year's conference theme is *Finding Your Path*.
Through a variety of interactive workshops, we aim to help students:

1. Identify and enhance their own unique leadership path
2. Recognize how their leadership path intersects and complements the paths of others
3. Understand how building a collective of leadership paths contribute to the greater good

What is Leadership?

Leadership is much more than title and position, telling others what to do, or having authority and power. Leadership is about having *purpose*, both as individual and group, to *intentionally* making a positive difference. Leadership can only occur when each of the following components are *fully* functioning together.



Model adapted from Shankman, M. L. & Allen, S. J. Emotionally Intelligent Leadership

To help students explore all three components of this leadership model, workshops for the 2015 Aggies Leading the Way! conference will explore topics related to "Self" (Session 1), "Others" (Session 2), and "Community" (Session 3).

Conference Agenda

Saturday, February 28, 2015
UC Davis Conference Center

9:30am - 10:00am

Conference Registration and Continental Breakfast
Ballrooms A, B and C

10:00am - 10:40am

Conference Welcome
Christie Navarro, Director - Center for Leadership Learning

Keynote Speaker
Dr. David Acosta – Associate Vice Chancellor for Diversity and Inclusion, UC Davis Health System
Ballrooms A, B & C

10:55am - 11:55am

Workshops - Session 1
Ballrooms and Conference Rooms

12:00pm - 1:00pm

Workshops - Session 2
Ballrooms and Conference Rooms

1:00pm - 1:40pm

Lunch Break and Networking

1:45pm - 2:45pm

Workshops - Session 3
Ballrooms and Conference Rooms

3:00pm - 3:20pm

Afternoon Plenary
You Found Your Path, Now Follow It!
Ilesha Graham, Owner - Cocospeaks Inc,
Ballrooms A, B and C

3:20pm - 3:30pm

Raffle Drawing and Prizes
Andrew Tom and Ryan Tom
Ballrooms A, B and C

3:30pm - 3:40pm

Closing Remarks and Evaluation
Christie Navarro, Director - Center for Leadership Learning
Ballrooms A, B and C

David Acosta, M.D.

*“Transformational Leadership:
Reinvent Yourself and Perform Beyond Expectation”*

David Acosta, M.D. is the Associate Vice Chancellor for Diversity and Inclusion, the Chief Diversity Officer for UC Davis Health System, and Senior Associate Dean for Equity, Diversity and Inclusion for UC Davis School of Medicine. He is a Clinical Professor in the Health Sciences, Board-Certified in Family Medicine, and completed his medical education and residency training at UC Irvine and UC San Francisco respectively. His extensive work experience spans the pipeline continuum working with URM pre-health students to faculty, and includes holding executive leadership positions in rural community health centers, residency and fellowship programs, diversity affairs and admissions. His teaching focuses on cultural competency, unconscious bias, equity and inclusion, health disparities, and Hispanic health. He's been the Principal Investigator for a number of grants (NIH, HRSA, RWJF) building pipeline programs for URM students interested in health careers. He is the Immediate Past Chair of the AAMC Group on Diversity and Inclusion, and served on the AAMC MR5 Advisory Committee responsible for the 2015 MCAT. He now serves on the AAMC Advancing Holistic Review Project Advisory Committee focusing on holistic admissions. He was recently elected treasurer of the Executive Board of the Hispanic Serving Health Profession Schools organization, and serves on the Executive Committee of Building the Next Generation of Academic Physicians organization.



Living the Life You Dream

Dream Big or Go Home! We will be thinking of things you want now and in the future, possible steps to get there, and strategies on overcoming the various hurdles you might face. All of this with a creative twist!

by Alberto Antonio Valdivia, Graduate Student Director - SRRC-GAAP

Conference Room A

Networking and Professional Etiquette

The objective of this workshop is to create and/or enhance a professional presence by learning the skills necessary to network successfully in both the social and professional arenas. Presented by a certified etiquette trainer, this is a fun, interactive way to learn professional etiquette skills like introducing yourself and others, engaging in conversations, and entering a room full of strangers.

by Marcel Kristel, Lecturer - Mechanical Engineering Department, UC Berkeley

Ballroom A

Servant Leadership and Forging Strategic Vision

This workshop will expose participants to the concept of Servant Leadership and illustrate the importance of fostering a clear, strategic vision as a leader. Servant Leadership is both a leadership philosophy and set of leadership best practices. Servant Leaders help develop others, putting their needs first to build a culture of success and high performance. Participants should walk away with a strong understanding of Servant Leadership, its benefits, and how to better apply this concept to their own leadership style. Additionally, participants will learn the importance of vision in leadership and will receive some tools to help enhance their ability to foster vision as a leader.

by Darren Nelson, Deputy Manager of Strategic Analysis - CRA, Inc.

Ballroom B

Moving Beyond Failure: How to learn and grow from mistakes

Students who attend this workshop will understand how to learn from their mistakes in order to develop better leadership skills. Sometimes mistakes in our leadership journey are inevitable and how they are handled determines the future prospects and successes in the leadership journey. Therefore, young people who are aspiring to be good leaders must begin to learn how to handle mistakes and accept constructive criticism. This workshop will help participants to analyze few challenges or mistakes young leaders face and how to overcome them easily. Participants will be asked to voluntarily speak about past experiences that they are finding difficult to overcome. There will be small group discussions and analysis of case studies.

by Jerry John Nutor, Chancellor Graduate and Professional Advisory Board Member – School of Nursing

Ballroom C

Leading with Purpose and Establishing a Vision

Leading with purpose helps reinforce your vision, build trust, and bring meaning to the work you do. In this session, you will put on an introspective lens and look at what motivates you and why. Thinking strategically about your core values and what impact you want to have will help inspire change from within.

by Venita Sivamani, MBA Graduate Student – Graduate School of Management, UC Davis

Conference Room B

Conference Workshops - Session 2

Learning to Manage Up

As an undergraduate, you probably have had meaningful experiences working with student groups that are important to you, whether you were president of a club, served on student government, or were involved in collegiate sports. You may have acquired significant leadership skills such as balancing budgets, communicating with your members, and making strategic decisions on programming. These talents will serve you well in your career, but many new graduates face certain challenges when they transition to entry-level jobs for their first professional positions. This workshop will teach you how to identify your leadership style, recognize how it may differ from your supervisor's, and, most importantly, how to overcome these differences by managing up—taking the initiative to manage your boss. We will also provide resources on how to find employment opportunities that will allow you to make a difference in areas about which you are passionate.

by Scott Vignos, Associate Director & Allison Pedrazzi, Assistant Director – UC Davis School of Law Admissions

Is This Debate or Dialogue? Understanding the role of communication in community building

Sustained Dialogue (SD) is a tool that helps students make time to understand the different perspectives of individuals they otherwise would not meet. Engaging in such important conversations not only enables them to interact comfortably with all kinds of people, but also helps build relationships across community divides. SD equips students with communication skills necessary for increasingly diverse academic, social, and work environments. Our workshop will have students discuss the different styles of communication, develop strategies for how to communicate across differences, and participate in a mini dialogue to model the potential behavior. Students will participate in various activities to achieve the goals above.

by Mariah K. Watson, Student Director – Sustained Dialogue

Your Leadership Energy: Knowing the tone you put forth and how to adjust it

Depending on our personalities and the situation, we communicate certain energy towards the people we lead. Some of us immediately grab the reins and direct the team. Some of us stand back and allow members to work together to direct themselves. This workshop will allow you to explore what kind of energy you innately resort to when leading others, and how to communicate different energies depending on the situation to produce the best outcome for everyone. Come ready to learn about yourself, your communication style, and other tools on how to communicate with different personalities (or “energies”) effectively.

by Brian Luu, Assistant Director, Fitness & Wellness – Campus Recreation and Unions

Strengths-based Leadership: Leveraging group talent to achieve more

Each of us are called to leadership - whether we are the leader of one or the leader of many. The most effective leaders in the 21st century are those who rely less on positional leadership power and more on personal + relational leadership influence. Understanding your own personal leadership strengths is the first step in becoming an effective and transformational leader. In this interactive workshop, participants will be challenged to redefine their personal leadership paradigm, while assessing their own strengths based leadership style.

by Ilesha Graham, Owner – Cocospeaks, Inc.

Conference Workshops - Session 3

Collaboration as a Powerful Tool for Change: Balancing risk, commitment, and resources

Collaboration is not just sitting in a room with a variety of people; it is about creating whole new ways for us to interact with each other. When individuals and systems interact effectively, we can maximize our resources and find solutions to seemingly intractable problems. Collaborative processes have the potential for creating revolutionary changes in our communities and in our world. This workshop will talk about the different type of exchanges that occur in groups and how student leaders can build an effective team with the capacity to produce significant community change.

by Brittany Derieg, Project Manager – Student Affairs, UC Davis

Embracing the Collective

This workshop will provide a space for participants to consider the impact of working in collaboration with others to address social issues such as education reform, environmental justice, access to health care, and societal inequities. By intentionally seeking out those with diverse perspectives when tackling problems, leaders can work together to create new and innovative paths to solutions. This workshop will engage students in an interactive experience where they will learn the value of including multiple perspectives when making decisions and implementing strategies for success.

by Molly Bechtel, Student Activities Coordinator & Lyndon Huling, Student Activities Coordinator – Center for Student Involvement, UC Davis

Using Strategy to Boost Creative and Innovative Thinking

Good leaders have good strategies, but what is strategy? How does one create strategy? Can innovation hurt you? How does one become creative? These questions will be explored through hands-on activities where we'll create an environment where two companies compete in the same industry. We'll use techniques from Michael Porter, Economics Professor at Harvard Business School, to learn how great leaders create viable strategies. These strategies can help boost creative and innovative thinking that can help companies thrive in hyper-competitive markets. Plus, they can be used to boost one's own personal strategy thereby improving leadership ability.

by Carlos Custodio, Co-Owner – AC Consulting

Leading Change Using Collective Wisdom and Empowerment

In this workshop participants will explore a process to develop and implement broad areas for “change”. For example, a sustainability strategy for an education institution, a youth outreach program for a corporate entity, a community engagement project for a developer, etc. The process uses collective wisdom to develop the project “why”, empowering stakeholders, and ensuring the project is consistent with the organizational mission. The workshop will also briefly explore how to maintain engagement as the “what” and “how” of project is developed, and finally through implementation.

by Hilary Bekmann, MBA Graduate Student - Graduate School of Management, UC Davis

Say What? Powerful Communication for Connection + Community

Powerful communication skills can propel you along the path of leadership success faster than any other skill. Effective interpersonal communication can lead to better relationships, more loyal team members, improved collaboration, and stronger communities and organizations. When you have mastered the art and science of effective communication you are an unstoppable force! In this fun and interactive workshop, students will learn how to communicate skillfully and confidently, even in difficult situations, while mastering their own powerful story.

by Ilesha Graham, Owner – Cocospeaks, Inc.

Presenter Biographies

Molly Bechtel, Program Coordinator – Center for Student Involvement, UC Davis

Molly serves as a Student Activities Coordinator at the Center for Student Involvement. Born and raised in northern California, Molly graduated with her Bachelor's degree from UC Davis and Master's degree from University of the Pacific. Involvement was a huge part of her undergraduate experience, and she is thrilled to have the opportunity to support UC Davis students as they learn and grow as leaders.

Hilary Bekmann, MBA Graduate Student – Graduate School of Management, UC Davis

Hilary has 9 years of experience in Sustainability Management, most recently in Green Building Management and construction as the VP Business Development for the Footprint Company and the Director of Sustainability, Property at Macquarie University in Sydney, Australia. Hilary has developed and delivered change making strategies both from within organizations and as a consultant to Local and State Government agencies within Australia. Hilary has an undergraduate degree in Communications and a Masters in Environmental Science from Macquarie University in Sydney. She currently undertaking her MBA at UC Davis Graduate School of Management and is learning to paraglide.

Carlos Custodio, Co-Owner – AC Consulting

Carlos has a Master of Science Degree from the University of San Francisco with an emphasis on developing businesses in the new economy and a Bachelor of Arts Degree from the California State University system with an emphasis on Roman and Medieval societies. His fields of interest are Baroque art, Islamic conflict relations, and entrepreneurial law technology systems. In his professional career, which spans over 25 years, Carlos is involved in creating and operating a business that develops technology systems for the legal industry. On occasion, he also leads an Oddities Tour of San Francisco that includes visiting strange burial sites, viewing weird artifacts, seeing one-of-a-kind historical markers, examining unconventional architecture, and looking at left-over relics from by-gone eras.

Brittany Drieg, Project Manager – Office of the Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs, UC Davis

Brittany is the project manager for the Office of the Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs and a UC Davis Alum. She spent three years at the Center for Neuroscience and one year in South Africa studying the social development of wild baboons before returning to Davis. She's worked as a mechanic, received her nursing license, has worked for foster youth programs and educational support foundations, and for the past seven years has led the largest pre-health conference in the country. Within student affairs she supports programs and services that foster academic success, student development, and campus community.

Ilesha Graham, Owner – Cocospeaks, Inc.

Ilesha is a former Aggie, having received her B.S. in Psychology from the University. She then went on to pursue her Master's Degree in Education, 2 teaching certifications, and an administrative credential from CSUS. After spending 20 years in the public school system, most recently as an elementary principal, Ilesha launched her own professional speaker and leadership development consultation business. When not working in the field, Ilesha is working hard to maintain her title as the Graham family "Michael Jackson Experience" Champion in Thriller.

Presenter Biographies

Lyndon Huling, Program Coordinator – Center for Student Involvement, UC Davis

Lyndon is one of the Student Activities Coordinators at the Center for Student Involvement. He works with Club Finance Council, the Picnic Day Student Organization Fair, and does work on campus around advocacy and expression. He is an alumnus of '07, and is excited to have the opportunity to support our diverse student body at UC Davis.

Marcel Kristel, Lecturer - Mechanical Engineering Department, UC Berkeley

Marcel lectures on professional communication at UC Berkeley and is a Protocol School of Washington certified etiquette coach. He has lead or co-lead networking and business etiquette seminars for UC Berkeley's Engineering Student Services (ESS) Department, the Student Achievement Guided by Experience (SAGE) Program and the Masters in Engineering (M.Eng) Program.

Brian Luu, Assistant Director – Fitness & Wellness, Campus Recreation and Unions

Brian came to UC Davis in 2005 as an undergraduate and has remained an active Aggie ever since. He spent a lot of his undergraduate time working for Student Housing as an RA and eventually an SRA. He also spent time as a peer advisor in the Sociology Department and a Group Exercise Instructor for Campus Recreation and Unions. On the side, Brian has been involved with UC Davis Relay For Life events for 10 years and graduated with a Bachelors of Arts in Sociology in 2010 along with minors in Sexuality Studies and Community & Regional Development. He currently serves as an Assistant Director of Fitness and Wellness in Campus Recreation and Unions, and also teaches CPR for Outdoor Adventures.

Darren Nelson, Deputy Manager of Strategic Analysis – CRA, Inc.

Darren is the Deputy Manager of Strategic Analysis at CRA, Inc. and is a reserve Naval Officer. He has over 11+ years of leadership and management experience in both civilian and military settings. Darren is a third year student in the UC Davis Sacramento Part-Time MBA Program with special emphasis on General Management and Strategy. His interests include business administration, entrepreneurship, public policy, and leading to affect change. Darren has a Bachelor's Degree in Political Science from the University of Texas at San Antonio, and two Associate Degrees in the Spanish and Serbian-Croatian languages from the Defense Language Institute.

Jerry John Nutor, Graduate Student – Betty Irene Moore School of Nursing, UC Davis

Jerry was born and raised in the Volta Region of Ghana, West Africa and obtained his Diploma in General Nursing in 2008 and Bachelor of Science degree in Nursing from University of Cape Coast in 2012. He is currently enrolled in the Master of Nursing Science and Health Care Leadership degree program at the Betty Irene Moore School of Nursing, University of California, Davis. Jerry is excited to be part of the Betty Irene Moore School of Nursing whose vision it is to transform health care through nursing education, research and leadership. His research focuses on developing new ways of improving health care for underrepresented segments of the population, such as rural and urban communities. He also loves traveling, reading, hanging out with friends, and organizing events.

Allison Pedrazzi, Assistant Director of Admission – School of Law, UC Davis

Allison is the Assistant Director of Admissions at UC Davis School of Law. Prior to that, she spent three years as an associate in Goodwin Procter LLP's corporate law group. She received her J.D. in 2011 from Stanford Law School and her B.A. in English from UC Davis in 2004. Allie lives in Davis with her husband and Goldendoodle puppy.

Venita Sivamani, MBA Graduate Student – Graduate School of Management, UC Davis

Venita has a keen passion for educational equity and nearly a decade of leadership experience. She is a Teach For America alumna and serves on the Board of Directors for an international education nonprofit, Visions Global Empowerment. Venita is currently an MBA student at the UC Davis Graduate School of Management where she hopes to combine best business practices with her work in education to expand opportunities and improve life prospects for youth around the world. In her spare time, Venita can be found on the dance floor, at the park with her dogs, or an adventure abroad.

Alberto Antonio Valdivia, Graduate Student Director – GAAAP, Student Recruitment and Retention Center, UC Davis

Alberto has a mixed heritage ancestry. His father comes from a small village in Zacatecas, Mexico while his mother is from the Caribbean island of Puerto Rico. Alberto's research centers around decolonial wellness: indigenous healing of body, mind, spirit, earth. Alberto lives, speaks, listens, and thinks from the corazón, the heart. This method has provided tools for teaching con ganas, with enthusiasm. As a queer person of color, with an invisible disability, and having experienced firsthand the oppression, marginalization, and hegemonic practices within the higher education environment, all students, all people have knowledge to contribute. It is a missed opportunity when educators do not promote effective facilitation of a community of sharing and learning. There is much to be gained from diverse learning experiences where speaking one's truth, respecting interdependence, and developing community critical consciousness facilitates positive transformation of student lives and their surrounding world.

Scott Vignos, Associate Director of Admission and Outreach – School of Law, UC Davis

Scott is the Associate Director of Admission and Outreach at UC Davis School of Law (King Hall). Before arriving at King Hall, he practiced law in San Francisco, and worked for an NGO in Pune, India. Scott received his J.D. in 2011 from UC Davis School of Law and his B.A. from Carleton College in 2006. He is passionate about working with students and loves good coffee!

Mariah Kala Watson, Student Director – Sustained Dialogue Club, UC Davis

Mariah is a third-year International Relations Major and Philosophy double major from the beautiful city of Los Angeles. She is a Peer Educator for the Cross Cultural Center, a former ASUCD Senator, and a student director with the Sustained Dialogue Club on campus. Mariah believes dialoguing and hosting workshops on identity exploration gives students an opportunity to directly better our campus climate in a way that encourages communication, listening, and openness; all things that make the world go 'round. While she is not hosting a workshop, she loves going to the movies, reading Sci-Fi novels, baking sweet goodies, traveling all around the world, and engaging in conversations with cool people. Mariah is passionate about social justice because she believes everyone, regardless of their race or ethnicity, economic status, level of physical ability, etc. should be able to thrive in their society.

CENTER FOR LEADERSHIP LEARNING

The Center for Leadership Learning (CLL) is a special academic program that offers a variety of programs and activities to help undergraduate students develop their leadership and professional skills.

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This conference is made possible through a partnership between Undergraduate Education and the Division of Student Affairs and funds generated by ATM Campus Agreements.



Special thank you to the 2015 conference planning committee for their contributions and dedication:

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