

Office of the President

**TO MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT
COMMITTEE:**

DISCUSSION ITEM

For Meeting of May 12, 2021

**PROPOSAL FOR ANNUAL REGENTS' AWARD RECOGNIZING CURRENT AND
FORMER FOSTER YOUTH ATTENDING THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This item discusses a proposal for a Regents' award that would celebrate current and former foster youth attending the University of California.

Such an award would ensure ongoing visibility to the unique barriers that current and former foster youth face in their pursuit of academic success, while providing a stage to honor and celebrate individual UC students for their academic achievements.

BACKGROUND

Purpose

The annual award would ensure ongoing visibility to the unique barriers that current and former foster youth face in their pursuit of academic success, while providing a stage to honor and celebrate UC students for their achievements. Members of the Board have consistently voiced their support and interest in finding ways to support current and former foster youth. The creation of the award would present an opportunity for Board members to make a direct and lasting impact through the celebration of both the awardees, and also the Board's fundraising efforts to support an award fund. Awardees would be selected on an annual basis and recognized at a meeting of the Board, where they would receive a plaque and a \$1,000 award. Were the award fund to grow over time, so would the ability to increase the number of awardees and/or award amount on an annual basis.

Award Funding

A fund functioning as an endowment (FFE) will be established to fund the awards (award fund), with members of the Board of Regents supporting the award fund through their donations and

fund-raising efforts¹. At minimum, \$10,000 is needed to establish an FFE with The Regents in the General Endowment Pool (GEP). Annual payout (the amount distributed annually to be available for expenditure) for FFEs is set by the Board of Regents each May and is currently 4.75 percent of a 60 month moving average of the market value of a unit invested in the GEP. Payout from the award fund will be augmented with additional withdrawals from the FFE principal, as needed, to ensure that a minimum of \$1,000 is available for the award.

Eligibility and Selection Criteria

To be eligible for the award, students must be: 1) a current or former foster youth enrolled as a full-time undergraduate, graduate or professional student in good academic and disciplinary standing at one of the University of California's ten campuses; or 2) a student who recently graduated from UC (within the same academic year of the nomination process).

Selection criteria for selecting the awardees could be focused in a number of ways, including:

- Demonstrated academic excellence or for significant improvement in their academic performance
- Engagement in local, state or national community service and/or advocacy efforts
- Facilitated activities or programs that enhance the undergraduate, graduate or professional student experience on campuses
- Demonstrated excellence in helping the University fulfill its mission of teaching, research, and community service
- Making a positive impact in support of current or former foster youth at UC (either at a specific campus or more broadly)

Nomination and Selection Process

Any UC student, faculty, or staff member would be able to nominate a candidate for the award. In addition, students are allowed to self-nominate as well. A call for nominations and a nomination form would be distributed on an annual basis. Each nomination from a campus would include endorsement from the Chancellor (or their designee). Nominations from the UC Student Association, UC Graduate and Professional Council, UC Agriculture and Natural Resources, or the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory would include an endorsement from the leader of the respective organization.

A selection committee of staff from the Office of the President and the Office of the Regents would evaluate the nominations and select the awardees. The selection committee would also include a faculty representative and one to two Regents who could also facilitate the award presentation.

¹ Fundraising activity for contributions to the award fund will be driven by the Regents. The Office of the President in general, does not actively fundraise at the systemwide level, including applying for or managing grant funding. Rather, philanthropic support across the UC system is driven by campus fundraising efforts. Therefore, support by the Regents, either through direct donations or fundraising efforts, is essential to grow the award fund.

Award Presentation

As an annual award, the award could be given at any Regents meeting, but selecting the July or September Board meetings would allow for the awards to be in recognition of contributions made during the prior academic year. Similar to the President's Outstanding Student Leadership Award, the award could be presented at the start of one of the Board meeting days. The Office of the President will cover the cost of attending the Board meeting for the awardees.

In addition to the award presentation, the awardees could be invited to attend a dinner or other social event with members of the Board. This event could also serve as a fund-raising opportunity to support the endowment.