

Office of the President

TO MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE:

DISCUSSION ITEM

For Meeting of November 14, 2018

COMMUNITY OUTREACH AND IMPACTS, SANTA BARBARA CAMPUS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

UC Santa Barbara is internationally recognized as a leading center for teaching and research, distinguished by its interdisciplinary programs and a commitment to innovation. With more than 21,500 undergraduates, 2,700 graduate students, and 6,800 faculty and staff, the academic community is characterized by a culture that is community-driven and globally focused.

Chancellor Yang will provide an overview of UC Santa Barbara's community engagement programs and will highlight three projects that exemplify UC Santa Barbara's regional partnerships.

BACKGROUND

UC Santa Barbara Arts & Lectures

Founded in 1959, UCSB Arts & Lectures (A&L) is the largest and most influential arts and lectures organization between Los Angeles and San Francisco. Now celebrating its 60th anniversary, A&L annually presents more than 100 events, from critically acclaimed concerts and dance performances by world-renowned artists to talks by groundbreaking authors, and film series at the campus and Santa Barbara-area venues. With a mission to "educate, entertain and inspire," A&L also oversees an outreach program that brings visiting artists and speakers into local classrooms and other venues for master classes, open rehearsals, discussions, and more, serving K-12 students, college students, and the general public.

When Arts & Lectures' internationally recognized artists and speakers enter the everyday lives of students, they bring a unique opportunity to relate academics to current events and artistic trends from the world stage. The outreach program provides free educational activities to approximately 30,000 each year with partnerships on campus, in schools, and in the community.

Providing Mutual Aid to the Santa Barbara County during Times of Crisis

Over the course of several weeks in December and January, Santa Barbara endured two major events: the catastrophic Thomas fire, the single largest wildfire in California's history, followed by exceedingly high rainfall rates and the subsequent mudslides and debris flow that destroyed homes and caused more than 20 fatalities. Between the flames, ash, mud, the debris, and the closure of Highway 101 for nearly two weeks, no one was unaffected.

Despite the natural disasters, UC Santa Barbara's doors remained open. In addition to regular operations, albeit curtailed in some areas, the campus served as a Red Cross emergency shelter and housed 100 mutual aid law enforcement personnel from the California Highway Patrol and the National Guard.

In addition to the campus's mutual aid efforts, UC Santa Barbara's academics and researchers are working to better understand the effects of the wildfires and mudslides on the region's economy, the health and welfare of local residents, and on the environment. UC Santa Barbara's Economic Forecast Project is bringing together state and local experts to discuss how the Thomas Fire and Montecito mudslides have impacted the Santa Barbara economy. Scientists at the Bren School of Environmental Science & Management are examining the impact of the resulting ash from the fires on the air and water quality. The effects of the fire on the landscape surrounding the area has provided the rare opportunity for scientists to study ecological recovery at UC's Natural Reserves including the Carpenteria Salt Marsh Reserve.

Harding University Partnership School

In 2010 the historic Harding School formed an unprecedented partnership with the Gevirtz Graduate School of Education, becoming the Harding University Partnership School. As of fall 2012 the University School has achieved status as an International Baccalaureate Programme, making it the only Santa Barbara elementary school currently using this highly acclaimed approach that emphasizes 21st century skills and international mindedness.

The stellar teaching staff is assisted by graduate-level teacher candidates from UC Santa Barbara providing greater support for students at every grade level with the latest research-based practices. Faculty researchers and UCSB undergraduate tutors partner with teachers to deliver the latest evidence-based instruction. The 1920s physical structure has been upgraded with extensive computer facilities, an enhanced library collection, a new playground, and an organic garden.

The University School offers a full day preschool program, made-from-scratch meals for breakfast and lunch, a zero waste diversion program (92.3 percent), comprehensive assessment and guidance opportunities for children and parents, an arts program, Spanish, instrumental music, specialized physical education classes, and after-school programs.