

2023

Anteater Grant Initiative Impact Report





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The Parent and Family Engagement Team

Welcome to the 2023 Anteater Grant Initiative Impact Report! We hope you find our board, this grant, and the impact of UC Irvine parents and supporters as inspirational as we do. In 2023 the AGI was able to grant over \$48,000 in support of our student facing programs! Please enjoy a snapshot into the success of our 2023 AGI Cycle!

With Gratitude,
The Parent and Family Engagement Team



Christine, Marissa, Marvel & Tayler

The History of the Anteater Grant Initiative



History of the Anteater Grant Initiative:

The history of the Anteater Grant Initiative begins with the inception of the Parent Executive Board in 2017. This board, from its beginnings, had one purpose in mind: to build a network of like-minded peers inspired to leave a lasting impact on student success through philanthropy and engagement. With this goal in mind, one year after the board began, the Anteater Grant Initiative was born. Leading by example, the Parent Executive Board both support the fund itself and encourage the broader community to participate in its efforts.

A Few New Additions:

Since 2023 our application process has grown to include a video submission, allowing the program directors to share in their own words just how and why their project deserves to be chosen. The board, in collaboration with staff, review these submissions, touching on every piece of the cycle.



In May of 2023 we also included our first ever Anteater Grant Initiative Showcase and Awardee Reveal event. This event showcased the 2022 AGI awardees, including program directors, alumni who participated in these programs, and current students to share about the impact these programs have had on their educational journeys and carriers' post-graduation. In addition to showcasing the impact of these programs, we also announce the current years awardees! The event was such a success it has now become a signature annual event!

We invite you to meet the board, explore the programs that have benefitted from this grant and join us in our mission to support the students of UC Irvine on their roads to success!



Meet the Board



Clinton & Dina Wolf
PEB Co-chairs



Laarni von Ruden
Former Chair



Clint & Allison Chao



Marté Matthews



Ashwani & Vee Arya



Qi Chen & Sophie Yang



Ray Besharati & Shadi Araghi



The ANTpreneur Center

The UCI ANTpreneur Center stands as a beacon of innovation and entrepreneurial spirit at the University of California, Irvine. With a dedicated mission to inspire and cultivate the entrepreneurial mindset among undergraduates, the center serves as a foundational pillar for students embarking on their entrepreneurial journeys.



Ryan Foland
Director of the ANTpreneur Center

The Sustainability Innovation Challenge: A Case Study in Impact



The UCI ANTpreneur Center successfully hosted the Sustainability Innovation Challenge, a cornerstone event that exemplifies the center's mission to nurture early-stage undergraduate entrepreneurial talent and fostering essential skills such as leadership, project management, and teamwork.

Abelo's Achievement

The challenge winner, Team Abelo, developed an innovative solution for monitoring the critical issue of declining bee populations. Their victory not only highlights the challenge's impact on fostering actionable environmental solutions but also propels them to the global stage at the Hult Prize competition. This achievement exemplifies the potential of UCI students to make significant contributions to global sustainability efforts.





Campus Organizations and Volunteer Programs



The Office of Campus Organizations and Volunteer Programs' mission is to empower students to discover and nurture their talents and interests to influence campus spirit and community culture. We promote leadership development by providing registered campus organization resources, student leadership advising, and community engagement opportunities for the campus community.



Darlene Esparza
Director of Campus Organizations and Volunteer Programs

With the help of the Anteater Grant Initiative to provide a more thorough experience in service-learning and community engagement opportunities such as the following:

UNITY THROUGH SERVICE:

Unity Through Service was a service-learning project in which we visited Second Harvest Food Bank, learned about the farm workers' movement in honor of Latino/a Heritage Month and Filipino/a History Month. Many students that work with us shared their experiences in connection to this history. With the help of 33 UCI volunteers, we were able to glean butternut squash to provide for underserved communities around Orange County.





COMMUNITY SERVICE & LEADERSHIP FAIR:

The Community Service & Leadership Fair is an annual event that invites students, staff, faculty, and community members to learn about leadership, community service, and field study opportunities with local nonprofits, campus departments, and campus organizations. This year, over 360+ students, faculty, staff, and community members participated in the fair to check out over 55 partners both off-campus and on-campus.

MLK JR. DAY OF SERVICE

MLK Jr. Day of Service is a tradition for Anteaters to continue Dr. Martin Luther King’s legacy through service to the community. In years past, Anteaters have volunteered at the OC Food Bank to help pack food for the local community.



“Participating in our volunteer events allows students to give back to the community while also exposing them to social justice issues these communities face and are not generally talked about. During our events, we’ve had the opportunity to facilitate discussions about ongoing struggles, such as farm labor injustices, gentrification, and food insecurity, that still continue to impact different community members today. I look forward to participating in more of these projects to continue learning about the effects of social justices issues, as well as listening to the stories and experiences of the community.”

Byanca Carrizales
2nd year, Psychological Sciences





Division of Career Pathways

The Division of Career Pathways (DCP) serves as the hub for career development and preparation for our students, staff, faculty, and recent alumni, as well as a recruitment center for local, regional, national, and global organizations.

DCP puts career services front and center for all students by integrating career content throughout the entire student experience – from orientation to classroom assignments to internships – and many points along the way.

DCP Peer Educator Program

The Division of Career Pathways (DCP) Peer Educator Program is an opportunity for a select group of students to be trained to provide career advising and support for their fellow students through individual drop-in meetings, workshops, and outreach tables across campus. Topics include general career planning, developing resumes and cover letters, navigating the job and internship search, preparing for interviews and graduate school. The Peer Educator is instrumental in helping DCP reach its goals to “educate and engage students and alumni to realize their career potential.”



Leigh Poirier
Director of Strategic Services



Peer Educators gain professional skills and develop Critical Thinking, Professionalism, Communication, Teamwork, Leadership, Career and Self-Development, Technology, and Equity and Inclusion career readiness competencies while helping their peers. They are trained on an ongoing basis through weekly team meetings and regular one-on-one meetings with the Program Supervisor.



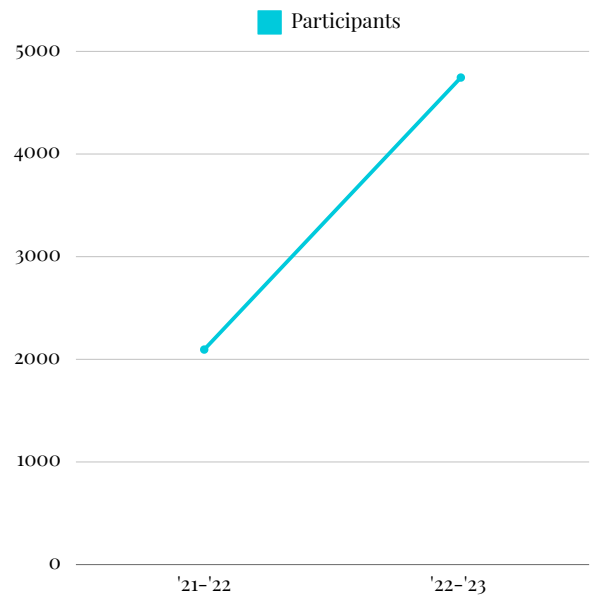
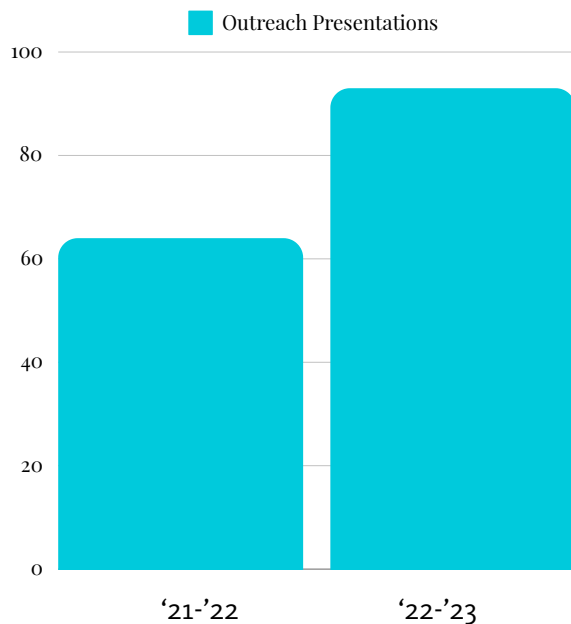


Career Pathways and AGI Helping Students

Funds from the Anteater Grant Initiative (AGI) are being used to support wages for DCP student staff who provide drop-in advising, student programming and programming support, customer service, and career fair and recruitment activity support. Receiving this funding allowed us, for the first time, to hire and train new peer advisors in the spring to prepare them for the fall quarter.



Outreach Impact Data:





Learning and Academic Resource Center

The UCI Learning & Academic Resource Center is part of the Office of the Vice Provost of Teaching and Learning, in the division of Undergraduate Education. Our goal is to foster educational success for UCI's diverse student population, as part of a campus-wide effort involving meaningful collaborations between faculty, staff, administrators, and students across schools. LARC serves thousands of students every year. Our vision is to connect "what to learn" with "how to learn" in a student-centered, collaborative learning experience. Programs like LARC group tutorials, LARC After Dark drop-in tutoring, and peer academic coaching provide the UCI community of learners with valuable skills, support, and leadership skills.



Trace Yulie
Director of LARC



Program growth with AGI



With AGI's generous funding, LARC was able to recruit three peer coaches, host a meet-and-greet with them in early Fall quarter, establish office space for their work, and provide supplies to begin their training. The coaches met for training two hours a week for Fall term, where they learned best practices for peer coaching and learning support, as well as wellness and referral strategies to promote student well-being and mental health. They applied their new skills in weekly coaching hours and made presentations to other students. They conducted outreach by hosting outdoor pop-ups and collaborated with the Student Outreach and Retention Center (SOAR) to provide 1:1 drop-in support during final exam week. They also collaborated with Student Success Initiatives and LARC's student outreach coordinator to host a popular vision board event as part of the November First Gen Week celebration.

Coach Testimonial:

"As a Peer Coach, I have the privilege to talk to students and create a safe space where they can talk about their academic struggles, and I can give them the support they need!"- Veda

Student Testimonial:

"I tried some things from the study tools you shared with me, and I'm starting to retain more information!"



SAGE

Student Achievement Guided by Experience (SAGE) Scholars Program was founded in 1999 by the University of California Office of the President to strengthen the pipeline of talented and diverse students entering the workforce and to support them during their undergraduate careers. The SAGE Scholars Program provides undergraduates who have significant financial need with the tools to invest in their future through leadership training, career exploration, graduate school planning, and access to internship and scholarship opportunities.



Neda Moayed
Director of SAGE

One of a kind

SAGE Scholars teaches career and life skills to high-achieving, diverse UCI students

by Dhanika Pineda, UCI | January 5, 2023



SAGE Counseling Support

The counseling component of this program provides a safe environment for students to seek support for career planning, job search, practice interviews, graduate school planning, as well as, receiving important information about campus resources for mental health and crisis management. We also work with students in the counseling sessions to put into practice the self-awareness and motivation pieces of the curriculum to enhance their personal and professional development so they can reach their full potential in school and meet their long-term goals. Because of the high touch, one-on-one attention, we didn't lose any students during the pandemic, and nobody fell through the cracks. Annually, SAGE provides approximately 800 hours of counseling support. In 2022 SAGE added counseling 'drop-in' support to address immediate and emerging needs such providing resources for housing insecurity, food insecurity, etc. The Anteater Grant Initiative helped provide 81 hours of one-on-one, small group, or 'drop in' counseling to up to SAGE students.





Student Parents and Families Program

Student Parents & Families (SPF) Program at UCI strives to provide student parents, guardians and/or caregivers the proper support to maximize their college experience by providing a supportive and family-friendly environment. We are dedicated to guiding students with the necessary resources to meet both their academic and familial needs. Please fill out this interest form if you are interested in joining the SPF program. The SPF program is an approved CalWORKs verification site.



Joanna Hernandez
Director of Student Success Initiatives

The SPF program was initially established in 2021 to assist parenting students who faced difficulties accessing campus resources. This program started off with 10 students and now is up to 60 parenting students. These students have the added challenges of figuring out housing, managing children drop off and pick up, as well as all of the parenting responsibilities in addition to being a UCI student. Our office supports student parents with identifying campus and county resources, discuss class schedules as well as graduate school opportunities, and discuss maintaining a healthy mental health balance.

This past year the Anteater Grant Initiative provided the SPF program with \$2,500 to help host an orientation for incoming parenting students, community building events and study sessions for students. These events have been a tremendous success!

Student Parent and Family Stats

Total Students = 60	% of SPF	% of UCI
Underrepresented Minority (URM)	56.1%	29%
Asian	7%	43.2%
Black	3.5%	3.9%
Latinx/Hispanic	45.6%	25%
White	7%	13%

Total Students = 60	% of SPF
First Generation	63%
Low-Income	45.6%
Transfer	61.4%
First Year	1.8%
Second Year	2.8%
Third Year	14%
Fourth year	49.1%



Special Programs:

Summer Orientation:

Student Success Initiatives and the Transfer Student Center partnered with the Office of Financial Aid to outreach to incoming students that have dependents. Out of the 140 incoming parenting students, we had 31 student parents attend with their children. We set up a playroom for the children while we had various campus representatives share about resources on campus such as Graduate Housing, Childcare Center, Campus Social Worker and Financial Aid.



Pumpkin Painting:

We provided pumpkins, paint, googly eyes and other fun art supplies so parenting students can decompress during midterms and do a fun activity with their children while getting to know other parenting students.

Trick-or-Treat on Campus:

We invited parents and their children to dress up for Halloween and they trick-or-treated at the different campus offices



Holiday Celebration:

Parenting students self identified if they wanted to receive a gift for their children on campus. At the end of the quarter, the SPF threw a holiday event for the children to play games, parenting students to connect with one another as well as provide passive information on campus and county support services. Departments on campus were invited to adopt a family during the holiday season. We had 11 families and 19 children that attended and received gifts. It was a fantastic event where UCI parenting students shared a meal, connected with each other and their children played together.

Study Jams:

Large rooms are reserved for parenting students to bring their children and allow them to run around and play while the parents study for midterms and finals.

UCI CARE

UCI CARE provides free and confidential support services to members of the UCI community who have been impacted by sexual assault, relationship abuse, family violence and/or stalking. Programs and services are available to people of all identities and regardless of status. UCI CARE aims to end these forms of power-based personal violence by engaging the campus community in education, programming, and transformative action.



Eli Pascal, MSW
Director of UCI CARE

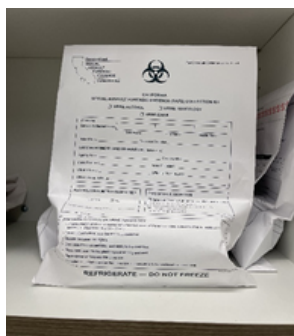


UCI CARE team

Forensic Exam Room

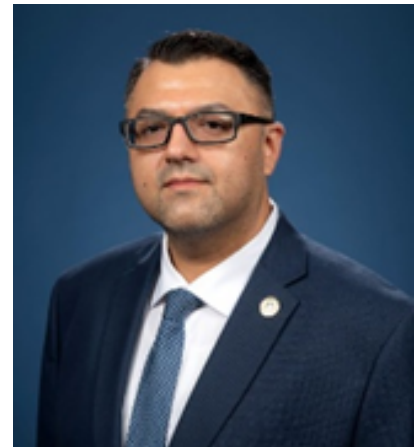
UC Irvine became the first UC campus to have an on-site Forensic Exam Room which was developed in the Student Health Center. Anyone in the campus community who has been victimized can now receive a forensic exam with evidence collected by specialized nurses and assistance for reporting the crimes by our campus Police Department without having to travel 22 miles to the only other site in the entire County which is located in Anaheim.

With the support of the Parent Engagement Board, CARE was able to purchase supplies for the exam site that directly impacted survivor experience including toiletry kits, clothing kits (as clothing is sometimes used for evidentiary purposes), personal hygiene items, snacks and food items provided to survivors after exam and receiving prophylactics, self-care and other comfort items including blankets and fidget toys. In addition, advocates were able to access some of the dollars to directly support survivors with addressing safety, housing and transportation concerns.



Veteran Services Center

The UCI Veterans Services Center (VSC) provides a welcoming and inclusive environment for all campus military-connected students, which include our veterans, reservists, National Guard, active duty, and their dependents. We aid military-connected students in obtaining the educational benefits to which they are entitled. We currently serve over 770 military-connected students and are in the process of hiring a Program Coordinator to establish a portfolio of programs, services, and events to support their transition to and success at UCI.



Danie Molina
Director of Veteran Service Center



The 2024 Veterans and Military Families Recognition Program is a new program that, for the first time in our history, will be inclusive of the growing military and veteran dependents. These are students who are the adult children or spouses of our service members and veterans who were afforded education benefits and are a vital part of our growing community. We are thrilled to now begin to recognize these students for their contributions to our military-connected community and for their unique sacrifices.

Additionally, this program was originally designed to honor military veterans who have sacrificed so much in the defense of our nation and communities, many of whom continue to do so through military service in the reserves or National Guard. We believe it is vital to celebrate this student population because some may have overcome significant mental health challenges, such as combat stress (chronic post-traumatic stress), traumatic brain injuries, generalized anxiety, depression, and/or other debilitating conditions. Their ability to overcome these barriers and meet their educational goals at



Moreover, military-connected students often come from families with no history of college participation (first-generation), underrepresented racial/ethnic minorities, LGBTQ+, and low-income. In summary, we are proud that our subpopulation of students of UCI are incredibly diverse and have proven to overcome real-world challenges. Our recognition program is a small way to say “thank you” for your sacrifice and service to our nation, communities, and to yourself. Your direct support will contribute to the cost of the event site at the Student Center and Event Services (Pacific Ballrooms) and required supplies and equipment, and vendors that will directly and positively impact the UCI Student Body.



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*Thank you for making a difference in
student's lives*



UCI Parent and Family
Engagement