



University of California, Merced
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GRADUATE DIVISION

February 9, 2018

Dear colleagues,

Now that the spring semester is well underway, I want to provide an update on graduate education initiatives and programs. Admissions are in full force, with almost 150 new students admitted as of this morning. I hear that faculty are very pleased with the quality of our applicants, and it is exciting to watch the SIR count increase daily. As you review applicants, be on the lookout for students you think would be good candidates for our [Competitive Edge Summer Bridge](#) program, designed for incoming domestic doctoral students who are members of underrepresented groups or first-generation students. We anticipate accepting about 15 students into the program this summer.

Graduate Visitation Weekend is coming up soon, with most graduate groups participating. I look forward to seeing all of you at the reception, to be held February 23 from 4-6 pm in KL 355. In addition to the usual drinks and snacks, there will be a number of posters around the room informing potential new students about the training grants and other key graduate initiatives offered on campus. If you have a poster you would like displayed, please contact [Will Suh](#). Later that evening, the G Street Band will play outside 510 Bistro. With four Senate faculty, a lecturer, and two graduate students affiliated with the band, this will be a great way to demonstrate that you can do great work and have a vibrant quality of life at UC Merced! The next day we will host our usual field trip to Yosemite, with a stop in Mariposa for pizza on the way home. This is always a fun day for our recruits, and I hope many of you can join us.

I want to thank everyone for your patience as we worked through a series of issues with TargetX over the past few years. We are well on our way to implementing a new admissions tool for use next year—SLATE is far more flexible than TargetX, allowing us to better meet your needs. We also will be able to use SLATE to review recruitment fellowships, making for a much smoother review process. And, four other UC campuses will be using SLATE for graduate admissions, giving us a community within which we can share best practices.

Congratulations to our newest graduate group – Management of Innovation, Sustainability and Technology (MIST). Their Masters of Management professional degree program was approved last year, and at the January 2018 Board meeting, the Regents approved the program's supplemental fee—our first PDST!

I am pleased to report that the Senate has endorsed a pilot in the School of Engineering to incentivize growth in revenue generating master's degree programs. This has potential to provide much needed revenue for graduate programs, as well as helping us to grow fellowships more broadly. The Senate has also approved changes to non-resident tuition remission eligibility effective Fall 2018. If your domestic students are not California residents, please make sure that they change their residency. After this year,

domestic Ph.D. students will only receive nonresident tuition in their first year, and master's students will not receive this tuition remission. They can change their residency at http://registrar.ucmerced.edu/nonresident_to_caresident.

I am watching carefully to see if Congress passes a Dream Act this spring. While I remain optimistic that this will occur, the other UC Graduate Deans and I are in conversation about how to best protect and support our DACAmented graduate students if DACA is rescinded. More locally, I am also watching implementation of UC Path, to make sure that our graduate students receive their pay on time in the fall.

On a more positive note, please remind your students who have applied for NSF, Ford or other major predoctoral fellowships, or for dissertation or other grants or fellowships valued at \$12,000 or more, to send us confirmation of their application and we will provide them a \$200 [graduate fellowship incentive award](#)—but we have no way of knowing they are eligible for this award unless they tell us. Also, [writing and statistics tutors](#) are available to work with graduate students, by appointment and drop in at the GradPad.

Finally, I want to draw your attention to a few spring events that might be of interest to you and your students:

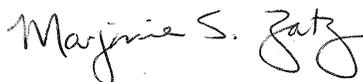
[GradSLAM!](#) Qualifying Round March 16 and Finals April 12

[Dissertation Boot Camp](#) May 14 - 18

Data Sciences Day April 20

As always, I look forward to working with all of you to further advance graduate education at UC Merced. Please feel free to contact me anytime with your ideas and concerns.

Best wishes for a wonderful semester!



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