



THE SCHOLARSHIP SCOOP

SCHOLARSHIPUNIVERSE

STUDENT SCHOLARS

WOMXN'S CENTER FOR SUCCESS

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Tuesday, March 8th marks International Women's Day which celebrates the social, economic, cultural, and political success of womxn. Despite the glass ceilings that have been broken by courageous and talented womxn, there is still work ahead to guarantee equality for all.

The UCI Womxn's Center for Success is putting in the hard work on campus. Previously known as the Womxn's Hub, the new center is now located on the fourth floor of the Student Center in the RISE Suite. The change in location prompted a change in name. When the hub was originally founded, it did not have secure funding or space. The term "hub" reflected the ambiguity around the campus resource. But with permanent staff and student funding and a more established location, the Womxn's Center for Success is here to stay.

For those unfamiliar with the term "womxn" vs. "woman", the newer term is intentionally used to promote inclusivity. Those who identify as non-binary, genderqueer, and

transgender can feel included and seen in the term if it is right for them. Using the letter "x" allows an expanded view of gender, and according to the center, UCI students support the term. Womxn is a spectrum that allows for a range of experiences to be acknowledged. Every womxn experience is valid and deserves to be acknowledged.

The center's largest event will take place in March 2022 and is called the EmpowerHER Summit. The four-year-old annual event is open to all of campus and creates an intentional space for everyone to come together. The EmpowerHER Summit is a transformative and empowering program that promotes learning together, building





to keep the student population engaged and informed about what the center does.

Despite what others may think, the Womxn's Center for Success is not only for womxn. Men can support the center and engage with it too. Total gender equality can only be achieved through mutual respect and support. Its educational programming is open to all. The center promotes discussions about womxn's issues that shed light on different identities or viewpoints.

At the end of the day, the Womxn's Center for Success works toward a future where womxn are equally represented inside and outside of the classroom and have the same opportunity to thrive as their male counterparts. It takes an individualized approach to every student they assist. The staff recognizes that success looks different to everyone, and they are determined to help womxn to achieve their definition of success.

skills, and networking. Staff members are excited to be having the program be back in person in Spring.

The summit is not the only way students can interact with the center. Anteaters can apply to the center's ambassador program called We Rise Ambassadors. The program welcomes everyone, and ambassadors are seen as stewards of the center. They learn about what the Womxn's Center for Success does and its impact. The group helps to



“A space on campus for womxn where they feel supported to thrive and be successful in whatever way that looks like to them”

Andrea Morales



David Rosten International and Community Service Scholarship
International Studies Major
Senior

One of the greatest challenges was applying to a system that was not created for people like myself. My parents did not attend college, and I didn't receive the same preparation others may have had like access to tutors. I didn't want to burden my parents with the financial support to pay for applications.

I learned from the mistakes I made in high school by staying informed about deadlines and asking for help. I know there is a stigma attached to community college, but it prepared me for higher education in ways that have shaped me into the student I am today. I don't think people realize the importance behind asking for help and asking as many questions.

Throughout my teenage years I was embarrassed about my Purepecha roots. As I got older and visited my community in Mexico, I felt empowered. I now see that being Purepecha is a beautiful thing. My ancestors have such a rich history and magnificent customs and traditions. My community service experiences began with my volunteer work in Mexico. I lived with Indigenous peoples for a few weeks to learn about their daily struggles and brainstorm community initiatives that would benefit their families. When I came back to the U.S., I began to get involved with the Purepecha community in Santa Ana.

UCI Scholarships have helped me by providing the financial means necessary to succeed in college. The scholarship has been put into my research by providing me with an electronic device and help with transportation costs because I am a commuter student.

Anthony Castillo

Thomas T. Tierney Veteran's Scholarship
Aerospace Engineering Major
Senior

Higher education was of the utmost importance for me. So I joined the US Navy for the education opportunity provided to veterans. My ultimate goal is to be an astronaut, and my personal life goal is to see the aggregate of this world; everything that is or ever was.

As a former Naval firefighter, I learned to adapt and improvise. Even when I was physically and mentally exhausted, I willed myself to act; lives are at stake. You find the strength you didn't know you had, the courage you doubted you possessed, and you perform. You trust on the wisdom of your superiors, hoping their choices will allow you to return to your family.

Growing up as a first-generation Mexican-American in a family with absolutely no formal education, I learned it can impact a family in more insidious ways than a lower net income. So for me, the drive is the pursuit of a better life for those who come after me. As John Adams said, "I must study politics and war, that our sons may have liberty to study mathematics and philosophy ... in order to give their children a right to study painting, poetry, [and] music..."

UCI's scholarship has allowed me to focus on that drive while relieving much of the financial stress that an average student experiences. The financial help also prevented me needing to borrow any funds to finance my higher education. I can then focus on my academics such as research projects and other programs which have allowed me to interact with my fantastic peers.

My advice to students like me is to first believe you can achieve anything you want in this life. Second is to take reality as it is, not as you'd like it to be. Whatever success looks like to you, you can do it, but understand the cards you are dealt.



ScholarshipUniverse

UCI campuswide scholarships and school-specific scholarships are now open! The application opened January 3rd and will remain open until January 31st. Visit [ScholarshipUniverse](#) to apply before the deadline!

You are able to apply for all campuswide scholarships in one place and have a greater ability to see which scholarships you apply for. Simply answer the eligibility questions, then the platform shows you which scholarships you qualify for. This makes the application experience personalized and simple.

After answering the questions, the Scholarships tab will show you all the available scholarships you may apply to. The Application tab will display the different applications to complete. Don't worry; the platform will autofill your answers if you come across the same question, saving you time.

The screenshot shows the ScholarshipUniverse dashboard for user Kelana Kitooka. The interface includes a navigation sidebar with options like Dashboard, Questions, Scholarships, Applications, Awards, My Docs, and Feedback. The main content area features a dashboard with a notification: "You still have outstanding questions that may qualify you for more opportunities! Click here to continue answering more matching questions." Below this, there are sections for "Scholarship Opportunities" (1030 Open & Future Scholarships) and "Your University" (Open & Future Available Scholarships). An "Actions Required" section shows a table with "Action Items" and a dropdown menu set to "Next Two Weeks". The table currently displays "No records available."

The screenshot shows the "Tell Us About Yourself" form in ScholarshipUniverse. The form asks for the following information:

- What is your citizenship status? (N/A)
- What is your cumulative GPA? (N/A)
- What is your current or intended enrollment status for the academic year? (N/A)
- What is your current or intended major(s)? (N/A)