



Staff Assembly 2025-2026 Annual Report

UC Davis Campus Staff Assembly Executive Committee

Chair

- **Chair:** Olivia Raxter, *Campus Recreation*
- **Chair Elect:** Keavagh Clift, *Occupational Health Services*
- **Past Chair:** Ashley Pelham, *College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences*

Communications

- **Chair:** Aaron Cheesman, *Strategic Communications*

Events

- **Co-Chair:** Lisa Hyres, *School of Law*
- **Co-Chair:** Wilson Xieu, *College of Letters and Sciences Green Cluster*

Finance

- **Chair:** Amanda Cattivera, *Finance, Operations and Administration*
- **Chair Elect:** Anna-Maria Naurzov, *Finance, Operations and Administration*

Outreach and Marketing

- **Chair:** Honora Knopp, *Plant Sciences*

Secretary

- **Chair:** Jessica Penrose, *Graduate Program of Environmental Policy and Management*

Member Engagement

- **Chair:** Huda Syed Mustafa, *Primate Center*

Council of University of California Staff Assemblies (CUCSA)

- **Delegate:** Jeff Heiser, *Student Affairs Divisional Resources*

UC Davis Health Staff Assembly Executive Committee

Chair

- **Chair:** Joseph “Joe” Avery, *Ambulatory Operations*
- **Chair Elect:** Darolyn Striley, *Med Admin Student Affairs*
- **Past Chair:** Stefan Toma, *IT Clinical Applications*

Communications

- **Chair:** Cory Mendenhall, *Environmental Services*
- **Chair Elect:** Kelsey McCann, *IT Fin Admin Applications*

Events

- **Co-Chair:** Clare McCarthy, *Strategy and Growth*
- **Co-Chair:** Audrey Lybrand, *Ambulatory Operations*
- **Co-Chair Elect:** Krista Newberry, *Office of Student Learning and Educational Resources*

Finance

- **Chair:** Rosa Gomez Rodriguez, *Experience Design*
- **Chair Elect:** Davin Gardner, *Ambulatory Operations*

Member Outreach and Engagement

- **Chair:** Brittney Patterson, *Ambulatory Operations*
- **Chair Elect:** Leah Galasso, *Clinical Informatics*

Secretary

- **Chair:** Julianne Miller, *Ambulatory Operations, Patient Access*
- **Chair Elect:** Vacant

Council of University of California Staff Assemblies (CUCSA)

- **Delegate:** Clare McCarthy, *Strategy & Growth*

Table of Contents

UC Davis Campus Staff Assembly Executive Committee.....	2
UC Davis Health Staff Assembly Executive Committee.....	3
Table of Contents.....	4
Staff Assembly Charge.....	6
UC Davis Campus Chapter Purpose and Objectives.....	7
UC Davis Health Chapter Purpose and Objectives.....	7
Executive Committee.....	7
Year in Review.....	8
UC Davis Campus.....	8
Events.....	8
Marketing and Outreach.....	8
Member Engagement.....	9
Finance.....	9
Communications.....	9
Secretary.....	10
Chair.....	10
Coordinator.....	10
UC Davis Health.....	12
Year-End Highlights.....	12
Events.....	12
Outreach and Engagement.....	13
Finance.....	13
Communications.....	13
Secretary.....	14
Chair.....	14
Year in Review – CUCSA.....	15
Overview.....	15
Meetings.....	15
CUCSA Alumni Award.....	16
Communications.....	17
Staff Voice	17
Slack Engagement	17
Meetings, Events and Activities.....	18
UC Davis Campus.....	18
General Meetings.....	18
New Employee Orientation.....	19
Breakfast with the Chancellor.....	19
Aggie Explorations.....	19
Special and Annual Events.....	20

UC Davis Health.....	23
General Meetings.....	23
Breakfast with the Chancellor.....	23
Special and Annual Events.....	24
Gifts from the Heart (GFTH) 2026.....	24
Thank Goodness for Staff (TGFS) – Pictures.....	25
TGFS Health– Pictures.....	27
TGFS Rancho Cordova Off-Site Event Pictures.....	28
Campus Involvement, Representation and Partnerships.....	28
Staff Recognition.....	30
Staff Assembly Awards.....	30
Citations of Excellence.....	30
Staff Scholarships.....	31
Staff Dependent Scholarships.....	32
Staff Awards Committee Membership.....	33
Citations of Excellence Committee Members	33
Scholarship Committee Members	33
Conclusion.....	33



About Staff Assembly

Staff Assembly Charge

Staff Assembly (SA) is dedicated to promoting the welfare, interests, and diversity of staff, the campus, and the University of California. The UC Davis Staff Assembly meets regularly with UC Davis administration on a range of issues important to staff and works to enhance communication about the university community along with proposing and sponsoring programs and activities committed to the interests of staff.

UC Davis Campus Chapter Purpose and Objectives

- To promote and advocate for the welfare, interests, and diversity of UC Davis staff with the UC Davis Principles of Community as a guidepost
- To stand as a university-sanctioned organization of staff employees, which will have a voice in matters pertaining to the University with the limitations imposed by law
- To provide increased staff participation opportunities in the governance of the Davis campus
- To promote and advocate for improved communication and interaction with all UC Davis staff
- To promote and advocate for the involvement and interaction of staff from all UC Davis organizations and units

UC Davis Health Chapter Purpose and Objectives

- To promote the wellness and interests of UC Davis Health, its employees, its patients, and the University of California
- To provide our employees with a voice on matters pertaining to UC Davis Health
- To provide a vehicle through which our employees may become more involved in, and informed of, the central functions of UC Davis Health

Executive Committee

The Staff Assembly Executive Committee (SAEC), elected by voting members, furthers the objectives of SA, makes decisions on behalf of the organization, and ensures these decisions are carried out. The Executive Committee (EC) members will spend one and two-year terms directing the various activities of SA representing staff interests with administration and advancing initiatives that improve the staff experience on campus. In addition to their assigned duties, they support each other's work through collaboration and teamwork.

Each chapter's SAEC is governed by the organization's bylaws, and each member is tasked with realizing the specific duties outlined within.

View: [Davis Staff Assembly Bylaws](#) and [Health Staff Assembly Bylaws](#)

Year in Review

UC Davis Campus

The UC Davis Staff Assembly is dedicated to promoting the welfare, interests and diversity of staff, the wider campus community, and the University of California. As one of the recognized campus constituent organizations alongside the UC Davis Academic Senate, Academic Federation, The Associated Students, University of California, Davis (ASUCD), and the Graduate Student Association, SA actively participates in the shared governance process at UC Davis.

The 2025-2026 SAEC continued the previous year's established goals to guide our work this year:

- Continue to promote and advocate for the welfare, interests, and diversity of staff
- Increase staff participation in campus governance
- Promote and advocate for a healthy staff community that includes valuable engagement with other campus groups and resources

In addition, each member of the EC established individual goals for their area of responsibility.

Events

This year, instead of reinventing the process we kept a similar event schedule to continue offering events that our staff have shown they enjoyed. We kicked off the year with a tailgate and Winter Warmer, leveraging cross-campus partnerships to encourage participation. TGFS remained the flagship staff event across both campuses, offering staff the opportunity to relax, connect and enjoy lunch, vendors & activities.

To strengthen employee well-being and foster a healthier workplace, Staff Assembly kicked off the Staff and Retiree Food Access Program, a collaborative initiative designed to address food insecurity among UC Davis staff and retirees. This program has been made successful through partnership with Transportation Services, the Retiree Association, the Society for the Advancement of Chicanos/Hispanics and Native Americans in Science (SACNAS), and Employee Well-being.

Marketing and Outreach

We focused on consistent visibility across campus and partnerships to bring more people into

the conversation. We maintained consistent meeting engagement and attendance for general monthly meetings. We continued existing partnerships that SA has with the Sacramento Kings and explored ideas for new partnerships. We held a fundraising event at Woodstocks Pizza, leveraging community connections and offering an opportunity for staff to support scholarships.

Member Engagement

This year's member engagement chair developed a new Aggie Exploration event, offering staff exclusive tours of the Primate Center. This Aggie Exploration was the most popular by far, with sign ups upwards of 300 people. To accommodate as many staff as possible, the Member Engagement Chair offered three tours of up to 30 staff members each with staff being chosen by a lottery system. Photos are not permitted on the tour, but the tour was well-received by staff who were able to attend.

- Increased number of staff interested in Aggie Explorations
- Strengthened cross-campus collaboration to facilitate engagement opportunities

Finance

We tightened processes to deliver clearer, faster insights. Streamlined reporting improved transparency for leadership and committees, enabled more timely decisions, and supported responsible stewardship during a year of constrained budgets.

- Streamlined the financials and offered more timely reporting

Communications

To align with recent accessibility guidance, the Staff Voice underwent a facelift. Sections of the newsletter were created by graphical section dividers, which were updated to text banners in Aggie blue and gold. The newsletter now features an "In this Edition" section, which serves as a table of contents at the top so that people can easily scan and click through to topics that appeal to them.

- Added a *voice* to the Staff Voice newsletter, including fun trivia and commentary to encourage readership
- Continued to provide timely content through Staff Assembly website
- Developed an intake form to support a pilot "Staff Spotlight" feature, where staff can submit kind words about their coworkers to be featured in the Staff Voice, Slack and LinkedIn
- Updated the Staff Assembly website to align with accessibility guidelines, created a list of future updates to be made by the next communications chair

- Created a reference checklist for the incoming communications chair

Secretary

Created a template for collecting key data throughout the year to inform the end of the year report. Encouraged staff engagement through the creation of a LinkedIn page, which has grown to 112 members.

- Developed a template for data collection for future Secretaries, along with a “best practices” guide
- Developed a Staff Assembly LinkedIn page (112 followers) and posted updates biweekly
- Collaborated with the Communications Chair to develop the “Staff Spotlight” feature, regularly posting the spotlights to the Staff Assembly LinkedIn page

Chair

During the 2025–2026 year, Staff Assembly continued to champion the interests of staff while fostering connection, recognition, and engagement across the UC Davis community. We navigated continued organizational changes resulting from staff accretions, creating a more consistent pathway for non-represented staff to participate in the Council of UC Staff Assemblies (CUCSA) and ensuring their voices continue to be represented at the systemwide level. In partnership with Employee Health and Well-Being, the UC Davis Retirees' Association, and other campus collaborators, we launched the Staff & Retiree Food Access Program to help address food insecurity through low-barrier, stigma-reducing food distribution events for staff and retirees. Throughout the year, Staff Assembly also continued to provide meaningful opportunities for staff engagement through programs such as Breakfast with the Chancellor, monthly general meetings, scholarships and recognition programs, and community-building events. Together, these efforts reflect Staff Assembly's ongoing commitment to creating a more connected, informed, and supported staff community.

Coordinator

- Improved the running attendance list for general meetings and SA events
- Cultivated long-lasting partnerships on campus (i.e. the LGBTQ+ Center, the Mondavi, staff resources, etc.)
- Prioritized small local businesses in events
- Encouraged UC Davis Health Staff Assembly to lead more programs/initiatives



Winners of the 2025-2026 Halloween Spooktacular Group Costume Award. The California Animal Health and Food Safety Laboratory (CAHFS) Histology department.



Staff Assembly Communications Chair, Aaron Cheesman before attending an Aggie Exploration tour of the Primate Center.

UC Davis Health

Year-End Highlights

- Expanded Staff Assembly's visibility and engagement across UC Davis Health
- Strengthened governance through bylaws for revisions and process improvements
- Enhanced communication channels, social media presence and listserv membership
- Improved financial oversight and accountability through refined tracking processes
- Increased staff participation in key programs, elections and leadership development opportunities
- Established new opportunities for employee growth and engagement through the Job Shadow Program and Outreach initiatives

In addition, each member of the EC highlighted accomplishments for their area of responsibility.

Events

- **Thank Goodness for Staff Health**
 - In spring 2026, UCDH SAEC leveled up the Thank Goodness for Staff (TGFS) event. In addition to maximizing the major positives from the 2025 event - including reengaging the relationships with SactoMofo and Shriner's hospital - the Events Chairs expanded and improved relationships with community vendor and entertainment partners. Not only did the participation in TGFS increase, but the SAEC's excellent planning ensured that all participants, volunteers, vendors and event stakeholders had an amazing time. This year's event streamlined and reorganized planning to ensure that all locations and stakeholders were not negatively impacted by the event, especially at our offsite clinic locations. We increased participant engagement through an interactive mobile-friendly event map and by including more information (including list of food trucks) on our SAEC-TGFS website. We were impressed by the engagement of our UCDH leadership team, who has engaged in all parts of our events, including the overnight event at the North Addition of the Main Hospital. The continued success of the TGFS events has garnered significant social media coverage and engagement with the UCDH Insider News reporting. Special thanks to the tireless efforts of our SAEC Chairs – elect, present and past – and their vision for TGFS's impact on the greater UCDH community!
- **Gifts from the Heart**
 - 37th Anniversary of UC Davis Staff Assembly, Sacramento Chapter and Collectively, UC Davis Health Staff Assembly provided holiday gifts to 247 individuals (seniors, disabled

adults, children and extended foster served by the County's departments and Department of Child, Family and Adult Services (DCFAS) who often experience adversity and hardship.

Outreach and Engagement

- Continued and growing presence at campus and community events
 - TGFS, spring 2026
 - Principles of Community, winter 2026
- Increased visibility of SA through outreach to ERGs, UC Davis Health leadership team, and main campus committees/communities
- Consistent participation in Quarterly Breakfast with the Chancellor events (57 applicants since January 2026)
- Increase in staff engagement with the listserv & work with health leadership on the goal of having an opt-out listserv in the future
- Integrated smartsheet to streamline and automate the SAEC election process

Finance

- Refined standard operation procedures to guide the Executive Committee on event planning, purchasing, travel requests, and reimbursement processes
- Optimized the financial tracking process utilizing Aggie Enterprise, Lawson financial, and Cognos reporting tools (Transaction Listing and GL Summary Balance Reports, GLIDE reports, etc.) to improve budget monitoring and expense reconciliation
- Implemented the use of new chart strings for Staff Assembly to accurately distinguish and track operational expenses separately from Thank Goodness for Staff (TGFS) program expenditures

Communications

- Accessed the SAEC Instagram account and LinkedIn group for a greater social media presence
- The Chair and Chair Elect split duties on updating the web page
- Added a significant number of new staff to the SAEC listserv
- Created SOP in the process of adding staff to the listserv
- Continue to develop a friendly relationship with both the Public Affairs and Marketing as well as the Internal Communications teams to ensure SAEC messages reach as broad an audience as possible



Secretary

- Changes in the CUCSA assignment - policy change
- Updates to the election process - special lection
- Meeting frequency and general assembly

Chair

- Participated in the RAC for the UC Davis School of Medicine Dean
 - Participated in the AI Steering Committee and the Administrative AI Subcommittee
 - Collaborated with the ERGs and Staff Assembly Campus to help address employee food insecurity
 - Established the Staff and Faculty Shadowing Program
 - Staff Assembly Executive Committee participated in the review of the Vice Chancellor of Human Health Sciences candidates
 - Led and supported bylaws revision and governance updates
- 

Year in Review – CUCSA

Overview

The Council of UC Staff Assemblies (CUCSA) is an organization composed of policy-covered staff members from across the UC system. **CUCSA's purpose is to advocate on behalf of policy-covered staff members with a focus on total compensation, staff engagement, and workforce sustainability.**

Meetings

UC Davis Delegates participated in bi-weekly work group meetings. While CUCSA works on several initiatives, the primary deliverables come from internal workgroups. Each year, CUCSA delegates are assigned to workgroups, each of which is charged with researching a topical area and delivering recommendations to UC administration. The 2025-2026 workgroups are:

- Engagement and Community
- Well-being
- Sustainable Workforce

Workgroup responsibilities included June 5, 2026 Final Workgroup Presentations, producing a Final Workgroup Report and hosting a July 8, 2026 CUCSA Townhall Discussion and Q&A.

Delegation meetings included the following:

- **CUCSA Quarterly Meeting (Summer)** – September 3-5, 2026 at UC ANR Salinas
- **CUCSA Fall Intercession Meeting** – October 7, 2025 on zoom covering the CUCSA Strategic Plan and Institutional Research and Academic Planning
- **CUCSA Quarterly Meeting (Fall)** – December 3-5 2025 at UC Riverside
- **CUCSA Townhall** – January 13, 2026 on zoom covering Systemwide State and Federal Government Relations
- **CUCSA Winter Intercession Meeting** – February 3, 2026 on Zoom covering the Retirement Program Services & UC Data
- **CUCSA Quarterly Meeting (Winter)** – March 4-6, 2026 at UC Merced
- **CUCSA Spring Intercession Meeting** – April 21, 2026 on zoom covering UC Benefits and State Government Relations

- **UC Day** – April 29, 2026 at the California State Capitol
- **CUCSA Quarterly Meeting (Spring)** – June 3-5, 2026 at UC San Francisco

CUCSA Alumni Award

Lina Layiktez, Director of Conference and Event Services at UC Davis, was selected by the CUCSA delegation to receive the CUCSA Alumni Award. With over 32 years of service, Lina is a strong supporter of the UC Davis mission and a strong advocate for the staff that make our campus run. As a former CUCSA Chair (2017-2018) and Delegate, Lina was a powerful voice at the Regent's level. Her advocacy was key in successfully pausing changes to Retirement Health Benefits and she later served on the formal work group to strengthen retiree benefits. At UC Davis, Lina served 10 years on the Staff Assembly, where she enhanced communication between staff and leadership by establishing "Breakfast with the Chancellor." Lina's advocacy for staff issues at UC Davis and beyond serves as an inspiration to future CUCSA delegates.



Communications

Staff Voice

Staff Voice, the publication of the UC Davis Staff Assembly, aims to keep staff informed of staff related initiatives, news, and events. The Staff Voice, published biweekly during the academic year and continues to be a conduit for campuswide information for staff. Staff Voice archived issues are available here:

<https://staff.ucdavis.edu/staff-voice/archives>

Slack Engagement

The #staffassembly Slack Channel was initiated in 2018, and has grown to 889 members. In 2025-2026 this channel was used to provide valuable news and updates to staff campuswide. The Slack channel also serves as an important venue for staff to pose questions, share knowledge and connect with colleagues across campus. Announcements made in the channel included the following topics:

- Staff welcome and engagement
- Transportation Services announcements
- Staff and Faculty Health and Well-being announcements
- Campus Recreation announcements
- Event announcements and volunteer supplies drives
- Campus store announcements
- Staff professional growth and Learning & Development resources
- Staff Awards applications & announcements
- Staff Assembly Executive Committee elections
- General Meeting communications
- Staff Spotlights
- Thank Goodness for Staff communications
- Breakfast with the Chancellor recruitment and announcements
- TechHUB updates
- HR Updates
- Sustainability tips and updates
- UCOP, CUCSA, and UC Town Hall updates

Meetings, Events and Activities

UC Davis Campus

General Meetings

Campus SA hosted general meetings for the staff on the third Tuesday of each month from September to June. General meetings offer staff the opportunity to engage across campus, hear from campus leadership and stay engaged in all things UC Davis. To provide campuswide information that affects all staff, we worked with various departments to provide information on their programs either through presentations, tabling at SA events, or inclusion in the Staff Voice newsletter. Presentations provided in 2025-2026 included the following speakers and topics.

Month	Presenter and Topic	Attendees
September	Health and Wellbeing, Stacey Brezing	74
October	Open Enrollment, Dorothy Ong Employee Experience Survey, Annalisa Teixeira and Maryam Ghadiri	68
November	Health and Wellbeing, Stacey Brezing	64
December	Finance Operations and Administration Update, Clare Shinnerl	89
January	Health and Wellbeing, Employee Essential Needs Resource Project Results, Stacey Brezing	58
February	University Credit Union, Domenic Noto & Megan Sterling,	65
March	Continuing and Professional Education, Jacob Hosier, Tracy J Diesslin and Michelle A Kreuzer-Moore Ombuds, Lauren Bloom	82
April	Grounds and Custodial, Lauren Bautista, Health and Wellbeing Updates, Stacey Brezing	67
May	CUCSA Executive Board, Clare McCarthy, Jeff Heiser, Greta Halle, Jen Bowser, Brian Light and Zoe Bolesta- Beynolds	78
June	Transportation Services	116

New Employee Orientation

To better connect with new employees and help them find community, members of the Staff Assembly Executive Committee attended two New Employee Orientations this year. The impetus for Staff Assembly's presence at New Employee Orientation was a conversation about staff trends with the Ombuds Office.

Breakfast with the Chancellor



UC Davis Campus SA's monthly Breakfast with the Chancellor series returned this year. In a total of eight sessions, more than 40 Davis campus staff members, including Employee Resource Groups (ERGs) Chairs, were able to engage with the Chancellor and his leadership team to discuss pertinent campus topics and issues of importance to staff. Staff Assembly committee members recruited, managed invites, and facilitated discussions at each of the breakfast sessions.

Aggie Explorations

Aggie Explorations provides program opportunities for staff to learn something new about the



UC Davis campus by engaging with other staff members in and around their workplaces. This year's Aggie Explorations consisted of tours of the Manetti Shrem Museum, Craft Center and three tours with the Primate Center. In total, more than 400 staff signed up to participate in the explorations, with the most popular exploration being the tours of the Primate Center.

Special and Annual Events

- **Halloween Spook-Tacular 2025**

- **Office Decoration (department, individual cubicle or home office):** “Derpy the Tiger from K-Pop Demon Hunters.” Submitted by Lisa Hyres, UC Davis School of Law
- **Costume (individual):** “Feeling Batty.” Submitted by Arnulfo Herrera, Offices of the Chancellor and Provost- Finance, Operations and Human Resources
- **Costume (team):** “Super Mario Bros Team.” Submitted by Javier Asin, Juliann Beingesser, Evelyn Lopez, Cecelia Walker and Jose Constante, The California Animal Health and Food Safety Laboratory Histology department

- **In-Person Staff Assembly Tailgate and Football Game**

- Campus SA, Health SA, and UCD Athletics partnered again for the sixth annual Staff Assembly Football Tailgate which was held on Saturday, November 1 at Biggs Field, adjacent to UC Davis Health Stadium. Staff attendees received two free tickets to the football game. Barbequed hot dogs and light snacks were also provided, along with other giveaways. There were approximately eight volunteers, both from the Davis campus and UC Davis Health campus. We ran a raffle to win swag bags with Staff Assembly merchandise and a chance to go to the special tent at the Football game!

- **Staff Assembly at the Sacramento Kings**

- Staff Assembly hosted three athletic fundraising events this fiscal year. Ticket sale proceeds from three Sacramento Kings NBA games supported Staff Scholarships. This athletic fundraiser is a fun way to include staff who live in the Sacramento area and raise money! Ticket sales from the events raised funds that will help to support Staff Assembly scholarships and continuing appreciation programs.

- **Winter Warmer**

- On December 10, Staff Assembly welcomed over 80 employees to the Putah Creek Lodge for the Winter Warmer. The event provided staff members with the essentials to set the tone for winter break. Hot cocoa, cookies, and refreshments were enjoyed by attendees while they visited a variety of craft tables. The Staff Assembly also held 80's Music Trivia and other games for staff to enjoy before heading off to enjoy winter break.

- **Woodstock's Gathering**

- Staff Assembly wanted to increase engagement with our downtown partners and provide more opportunities for staff to spend time with one another. We hosted a fundraiser that supported Staff Scholarships at Woodstock's in Davis. Despite consistent advertising for this event, there were only 6 qualifying sales made. We believe offering this event earlier in the quarter will increase participation.

- **Financial Wellness Series**

- In partnership with Employee Well-Being, Staff Assembly offered a Spring Quarter Financial Well-Being Series, featuring five sessions on topics including Building your First Budget, Navigating Interest Rates, 10 Steps to Financial Success, Investing to Achieve Your Goals, and Options for Dealing with Debt. This series was offered via zoom and in person, with limited capacity. This series highlighted a strong partnership with Employee Well-being and offered critical resources for staff to build strong financial habits.

- **Thank Goodness for Staff (TGFS)**

- Staff Assembly's signature event took place on Tuesday and Wednesday, May 5-6, 2026. In partnership with Athletics, TGFS After Dark was held on May 5 at UC Davis Health Stadium to provide an alternative appreciation event for staff who work afternoon and evening shifts, and those with accessibility issues in which the day program poses an issue. The stadium's built-in amenities and support from venue staff, who prepared the Bruce Edwards Room and concourse in advance, reduced setup and breakdown time and minimized volunteer labor and event costs. As a scaled-down version of the daytime program, the event featured Lunch Box Express boxed lunches, more than 20 on- and off-campus vendors, giveaways, and entertainment including a music playlist, games, a photo booth, and a special appearance by Gunrock. Overall, TGFS After Dark was considered a successful event, with approximately 497 staff members attending.
- TGFS Day program was held on May 6 at Russell Field. Based on feedback from last year, we changed the lunch caterer from Boudin to Lunch Box Express in hopes of increasing staff satisfaction with the food quality. There were around 300 fewer tickets sold this year, which may be attributed to the change of lunch options from food trucks to boxed lunches. There were approximately 6,832 meal tickets purchased for staff, student staff and remote staff. Meal tickets included a main course with a dessert and a beverage.
- There were 80 volunteers that signed up for various duties for the day program. Volunteers were provided shirts with the winning TGFS logo chosen the previous year via staff votes. This year, staff voted on submissions for artworks that will serve as the 2027 event logo. Learning from last year, we increased staff to hand out boxed lunches and had separate stations based on what lunch was ordered to ensure the lines didn't become too long. Other activities included lawn games and field competitions. To increase event

sustainability, members of the Sustainability Office joined the event to help divert items into appropriate bins (landfill, recycling and compost). Photos are included later in this report.

- After the event, a survey was conducted of participating staff. The response rate was low (n=109), but included valuable feedback. Most responding staff were not satisfied with boxed lunch options and recommended that TGFS planners explore other lunch options. Logistically, coordinating the delivery of thousands of meals is challenging but may be the only option given the budget constraints to offer this event. This will be a continued conversation moving into AY26-27.



Photos from Winter Warmer, 2025.

UC Davis Health

General Meetings

Health SA hosted quarterly, general meetings for the staff. Presentations provided in 2025-2026 included the following speakers and topics:

Date	Presenter and Topic	Attendees
October 15, 2025	Employee Experience Survey Results	68
January 29, 2026	Employee Job Shadow Program & Ombuds Office	72
April 14, 2026	Overview of the committee membership responsibilities and nomination process	35

Breakfast with the Chancellor



UC Davis Health SA’s quarterly Breakfast with the Chancellor series was conducted with

increased staff participation. In total, there were 29 staff participants/ attendees and an average of 5 leadership participants/ attendees. These events were hosted in October 2025, February 2026 and April 2026.

Special and Annual Events

- Staff Assembly Awards and Executive Committee Welcome Breakfast, August 7, 2025
- Tabling Events
 - Staff Assembly Tailgate, November 1, 2025
 - Friendsgiving, November 4, 2025
 - Principles of Community Kick-Off, March 3, 2026
 - Principles of Community Offsite, March 10, 2026
 - Earth Month Celebration, April 15, 2026
- Gifts from the Heart (GFTH) 2026
- Thank Goodness For Staff (TGFS)
 - Campus Day Event: April 28, 2026
 - Campus Night Event: April 28, 2026
 - Off-Site Event: April 29, 2026
 - Rancho/ HAS Event: April 29, 2026

Gifts from the Heart (GFTH) 2026



Thank Goodness for Staff (TGFS) – Pictures



TGFS Health– Pictures



TGFS Rancho Cordova Off-Site Event Pictures



Campus Involvement, Representation and Partnerships

During the 2025-2026 year, Staff Assembly across both campuses strived to foster partnerships with other campus groups and to represent staff voices on various committees.

UC Davis Campus

Involvements and partnerships this year at UC Davis Campus included (alphabetically):

- Academic Senate Faculty Welfare Committee
- AI Steering Committee
- Budget Framework Advisory Committee
- Chief of Staff to the Chancellor recruitment committee
- Craft Center
- Dean of the Graduate School of Management recruitment committee
- Dean of the College of Biological Sciences recruitment committee
- Employee Survey Advisory Committee
- Employee Well-Being
- Faculty Welfare Committee
- Learning and Development
- Mondavi Center
- Primate Center
- Retiree Association
- Society for the Advancement of Chicanos/ Hispanics and Native Americans in Science (SACNAS)
- Transportation Services

UC Davis Health

Involvements and partnerships this year at UC Davis Health Campus included (alphabetically):

- Believe in Better campaign and rebranding
- Ambulatory Policy Committee
- Campus Community Council (CCC)
- Council of UC Staff Assemblies (CUCSA)
- Executive Recruitment Advisory Committees
- Learning and Organizational Development Mentoring Program (health and campus)
- Partnership with ERG's/HEDI and SACDEI
- Patient Experience Team partnership
- Staff Assembly Citations of Excellence Committee
- SAEC committee member was the first ever employee to represent UCDH in the "Leader of Impact" campaign through the American Heart Association (\$239,461 raised)
- SAEC partnership with Public Affairs and Marketing on awareness, approval of swag and new branding
- Staff Scholarships Selection Committee
- UC Davis Health Sustainability Committee

Staff Recognition

Staff Assembly Awards

Staff Assembly's annual Citations for Excellence awards program provides recognition for individual staff and staff teams. Thanks to generous support from the Office of the Chancellor and Human Resources, the Staff Assembly will award a total of \$17,000 to staff members this year.

Citations of Excellence

Individual Awards

- **Innovation**
 - Derrek Kelly, Financial Services Supervisor of FM Business Operations, *FOA Business Partners*
 - BreAnda Northcutt, Director, *FOA Communications*
 - Will Arcement-Angel, HR, Academic Personnel & Graduate Program Supervisor, *Blue Cluster*
- **Research Support**
 - Kate Marusina, Director, Research Staff Workforce Development and Resources Innovation, *Clinical and Translational Science Center*
- **Supervision**
 - Casey Raubach, Academic Personnel Supervisor, *Plant Sciences*
 - Christine Yung, Accounting and Financial Reporting, *Capital Asset & Financial Control Supervisor*
- **Service**
 - Monica Fischer, Chief Administrative Officer, *College of Letters of Science Blue Cluster*
- **Teaching Coaching**
 - Erin Kent, Graduate Group Coordinator, Graduate Group in Immunology, *Veterinary Scientist Training Program*

Team Awards

- **L&S Advising Supervisors**
 - Anya Gibson, Undergraduate Advising Center Supervisor, *Blue Administrative Cluster*
 - Ariel Collatz, Undergraduate Program Supervisor, *Maria Manetti Shrem Art Studio*

Program, Cinema and Digital Media, Design

- Malina Gilles-Doherty, Undergraduate Program Supervisor, *Yellow Administrative Cluster*

- **Team B**

- Kian Nikzad, Academic Program Management Officer 3, *UC Davis Department of Entomology and Nematology*
- Wendy Mather, Blank Assistant 3, *UC Davis Department of Entomology and Nematology*
- Joseph Tauzer, Staff Research Associate 2, *UC Davis Department of Entomology and Nematology*
- Matthew Hoepfinger, Staff Research Associate 2, *UC Davis Department of Entomology and Nematology*

Staff Scholarships

The UC Davis/UC Davis Health Staff Assembly Scholarship Committee offers scholarships to UC Davis career staff and their dependents on both the Davis and Sacramento campuses.

Administered by the UC Davis Staff Assembly these scholarships are funded by both the Davis and Health Staff Assemblies as well as established endowments, departments, and Employee Resource Groups (ERGs). This year \$32,000 was awarded to staff.

Here are the 2025-2026 scholarship recipients below:

- **Student Affairs Scholarship**

- Rachel Bingham, Director, Student Success Pathways, *Academic Assistance and Tutoring Center*
- Jaritza Granillo, Assistant Director, Equestrian, *Campus Recreation*
- Leslie Kemp, Director, *Basic Needs Department*

- **UC Davis Staff Assembly Scholarship**

- Stacey Brezing, Director, Health and Wellness, *Employee Well-Being, Benefits and Employee Support Services*
- Angelica Rolon, Research and Grant Program Officer, *Genome Center*
- Kimiko Kojima, Same Day Surgery Center Manager, *Perioperative*
- Syn Mateo, LVN Supervisor, *C St Plastic Surgery Clinic*
- Arra Jane Soriano, Associate Director of Workforce Programs & Innovation, *Office of Medical Education*
- Chandra Travis, Administrative Manager I, *UC Davis Medical Group- Practice Management Group*

- **UC Davis Health Staff Assembly Scholarship**

- Tyara Walker, LVN Supervisor, *Cardiology*
- **Kathleen Moore Endowment Scholarship**
 - Gayle Guest-Brown, *Learning & Organizational Development*
- **Margene E. Orzalli Endowment Scholarship**
 - Brianne Holden, Director, *Quarter at Aggie Square, Undergraduate Education*
- **UC Davis Latino Staff and Faculty Association Scholarship/ Staff Assembly Scholarship**
 - Martin Serrano, Program Manager, Talent Acquisition & Compensation, *Talent Acquisition & Compensation Services*
- **UC Davis Retiree's Association Career Enhancement Award**
 - Arra Jane Soriano, Associate Director of Workforce Programs & Innovation, *Office of Medical Education*
- **UC Davis Latino Staff and Faculty Association Scholarship/ Margene E. Orzalli Endowment Scholarships**
 - Belen Alcantar, Program Coordinator, *Women's Resources and Research Center*
- **Student Affairs Scholarship/ Larry N. Vanderhoef Staff Scholarship**
 - Lian Boos, Director, *Center for Student Involvement*
 - Jose Roa, Career Advisor, *Career Center*
- **UC Davis Health Employee Resource Group Scholarship/ Staff Assembly**
 - Katie McHenry, LVN Supervisor, *Ambulatory Operations*
- **UC Davis African American Faculty and Staff Association (AAFSa) & Staff Assembly Scholarship**
 - Kandis Kaltenbach, Medical Assistant, Midtown Neurology Clinic
- **UC Davis Retirees' Association Career Enhancement Award/ Student Affairs Scholarship/ Larry N. Vanderhoef Staff Scholarship**
 - Martin Tellez, Associate Director, Orientation, *New Student Programs*
- **UC Davis Health Employee Resource Group Scholarship/ Larry N. Vanderhoef Staff Scholarship**
 - Miles Thorne, Manager, Real Estate Development & Management, *Facilities Planning and Development*
- **Womxn in Technology**
 - Natalie Bold, Business System Analysis, *Risk and Safety Solutions*

Staff Dependent Scholarships

- Des Beach - Freshman, Parent/Guardian: Erin King, Artist Services Manager, *Mondavi Center for Performing Arts*
- Vanessa Zumstein - Junior, Parent/Guardian: Kristina Zumstein, Laboratory Safety Professional, *Safety Services*

Staff Awards Committee Membership

Citations of Excellence Committee Members

- Darolyn Striley, Co-Chair, *UC Davis Health Chair Elect*
- Mary Carrillo, Co-Chair, *Languages and Literatures*

Scholarship Committee Members

- Honora Knopp, Chair
- Jeff Heiser, Chair
- Amy Shuman, *Student Affairs*
- Emily Marwedel, *Womxn in Tech*
- Elaine Chen, *Womxn in Tech*
- Cat Bodine, *Womxn in Tech*
- Jessica Penrose, *SAEC Davis*
- Julianne Miller, *SAEC Health*
- Dannette Hollinger, *Health ERGs*
- Simmeran Swamy, *Health ERGs*
- Natalie Bernal, *LSFA*
- Jenny Short, *Retiree*
- ML Farrell, *UCDRA*
- Ahna Ligtenberg Heller, *UCDRA*

Conclusion

In submitting this annual report, the Staff Assembly Executive Committee would like to thank all Staff Assembly members, campus leadership, campus partners and supporters, for their commitment to enhancing the staff experience at UC Davis. While we are not able to list everyone who helped with our success this year, we thank you for your efforts in furthering the mission of the Staff Assembly at UC Davis.