

## Chancellor's Update - January 2019

January 28, 2019

Dear Colleagues,

Welcome 2019! Students, staff, and faculty are back working hard, reaching new milestones, and generating many new Highlander memories early in the year:

### **New Year, New Website:**

Like so many of your departments, my office has upgraded our website. Take a look at our newly redesigned [website](#), which we will continue to update throughout the year, and let me know if there are any features that would help you in better connecting with me or my office. Share your thoughts by emailing [chancellor@ucr.edu](mailto:chancellor@ucr.edu). I'm also on Instagram at [@chancellor\\_wilcox](#).

### **Moving into MRB:**

The Multidisciplinary Research Building (MRB) officially opened on Jan. 11, and it is set to increase UC Riverside's on-campus research space by nine percent across disciplines – including in the life sciences, chemical sciences, medicine, and engineering. It is UCR's first LEED Platinum-certified project, which is especially notable as labs are traditionally high-energy consumers. Special thanks to campus architect Jacqueline Norman and the entire Highlander team who had a hand in making this innovative space a reality at UCR. Read more about the gleaming new building and the event to celebrate it [here](#).

### **Racialized Emotions:**

I'd like to extend my sincerest thanks to Chancellor's Distinguished Lecturer Eduardo Bonilla-Silva for his thought-provoking talk "Feeling Race: The Social Significance of Racialized Emotions," our dialogue moderator CHASS Dean Milagros Peña, and all who

attended the event on Jan. 18. This conversation is important and ongoing. If you missed the lecture, or would like to see it again, it is now available online [here](#).

### **It's Official:**

Welcome to our new and returning federal and state elected officials, many of whom are also alumni or former students of UCR:

- U.S. House of Representatives: Rep. Mark Takano (CA-41)
- Asm. Sabrina Cervantes (D-60)
- Asm. Eduardo Garcia (D-56)
- Asm. Jose Medina (D-61) \*\*Represents UCR\*\*
- Asm. Anthony Rendon (D-63), Speaker of the California State Assembly
- Asm. Jim Wood (D-2)
- Sen. Holly Mitchell (D-26)
- Jesse Melgar, Deputy Director of Media and Public Affairs, Office of the Governor
- Maricela Rodriguez, Director of Civic Engagement and Strategic Partnerships, Office of the Governor

### **Reflections on Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day:**

UCR's very own Brian L. Haynes, Ph.D. Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs, graciously shares his insight as a reflection on the importance of the holiday honoring Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.:

*Words cannot adequately capture the significance of the federal holiday that we as a country recognize annually on the third Monday of January; Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. First observed in 1986, the holiday is named in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. an African-American champion and leader of the Civil Rights Movement, which effectively ended the Jim Crow era of American history. Although Dr. King was assassinated nearly 51 years ago (April 4, 1968), his legacy stands as a shiny beacon of hope for millions of people around the globe fighting for equality and justice. Dr.*

*King's famous "I Have a Dream Speech" delivered on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C. on August 28, 1963 remains one of the most important speeches in American history. In that speech Dr. King exhorted us to "Let Freedom Ring" and envision a world where everyone was equal. Let us as a society come together today continuing to dream while working toward a world where freedom, equality, and social justice will ring for all!*

As we look to the past to create a better future, we honor the innumerable contributions of the African diaspora. Moving into African American History Month in February, I hope we continue to keep Dr. King's legacy in our hearts and minds, and reflected in our actions.

**Write On:**

Writers Week, California's longest-running free literary event returns for its 42<sup>nd</sup> installment. Acclaimed author, Margaret Atwood (winner of Man Booker Prize in 2000 and writer of "The Handmaid's Tale", which was adapted for a television series on Hulu) will kick off the festivities with a keynote address on Feb. 4. Events will span a two-week period from Feb. 4-5 and Feb. 11-16, 2019. The event is free and open to the public and is set to feature 23 writers in all. Complimentary parking permits will be available at the kiosk on West Campus Drive at the University Ave. entrance to the campus. Read more about Writers Week [here](#). You can follow [@UCRWritersWeek](#) on Twitter and use the hashtag [#UCRWritersWeek](#) to share your thoughts and photos across all social platforms.

In closing, I want to say thank YOU, as together we look forward to a February full of scholarship and discovery.

Fiat Lux,

Kim A. Wilcox  
Chancellor