

## Chancellor's Update - August 2019

Greetings,

This summer has been an active one, and here are a few of the recent updates I wanted to bring to your attention:

### **Chancellor's Picnic:**

I hope you'll join me for a picnic lunch to kick off the new academic year on Thursday, September 12, 2019 from 11:30 a.m.–1:00 p.m. on Hinderaker Hall Lawn.

Complimentary lunch will be provided to those staff and faculty who have RSVP'd [here](#) prior to September 6. If you have any questions, please call (951) 827-3144 or email [specialevents@ucr.edu](mailto:specialevents@ucr.edu). I look forward to seeing you at the picnic!

### **School of Medicine Opinion Editorial**

Healthcare and inequality are at the forefront of the local and national conversation – for good reason when we look at the shortage of physicians, especially outside of California's coastal communities. In the Inland Empire, the doctor shortage is nothing short of a crisis, and Dean Deas and I wrote an opinion editorial about this need. You can read it in The Press-Enterprise [here](#).

### **The Creator State Podcast:**

Did you know that UC Riverside has a podcast? The 2019 season of the show entitled [The Creator State](#) is bringing stories of social innovation, art, and entrepreneurship from movers, shakers, change-makers, and creators. Rickerby Hinds (playwright, screenwriter, producer, and professor of playwriting at UCR) hosts the show, and a recent [episode](#) features an interview between Professor Hinds and Riverside-native and Professor Susan Straight, a distinguished professor of creative writing at UCR. She is the author of a new book "In the Country of Women," published this month by Catapult Books.

### **Campus Construction Timeline:**

Our campus is growing and upgrading. Joining our new students will be new additions and improvements to the physical footprint of UCR. Read all about it [here](#), and see the tentative expected timeline for your reference below. What are you the most excited about? I'm ready for The Barn to reopen!

- November 2019: Falkirk seismic improvements
- November 2019: Arts sculpture
- Early 2020: The Barn re-opens
- March 2020: Pierce Hall (phase one)

- September 2020: Plant Growth Environments building
- October 2020: School of Medicine clinic at Orbach Library
- January 2021: Lot 13 parking structure
- June 2021: Pierce Hall (full project completion)
- August 2021: Student Success Center
- Fall 2021: North District Development
- Late 2021: Batchelor Hall

### **Commencement Survey:**

As I shared in my June message to the campus, we are soliciting feedback on how to re-envision the Commencement experience. We've recently completed a survey of the graduates who participated in ceremonies earlier this year. The good news is that overall the experience was a positive one for most participants. However, the survey indicated that many graduates felt that the venues, duration, and, in particular, the weather posed notable challenges and compromised the overall quality of the experience. Numerous respondents noted the discomfort faced by graduates and families due to the hot weather, attendees leaving during the ceremony, and challenges seeing the stage and/or screens. While students appreciated having their names mentioned, the automated reading of names felt impersonal to some and led to errors in pronunciation. We continue to engage students and members of the campus community to explore what changes or enhancements will create a more memorable Commencement for every graduate and their guest(s).

### **Our Kids:**

I want to share an inspirational video excerpt from Dr. Robert D. Putnam, the Professor of Public Policy at Harvard University who joined us this June for the Our Kids Solutions Forum in Riverside. In April, the four-hour documentary series "Our Kids: Narrowing the Opportunity Gap," which he narrates, began airing on PBS stations across the country. The series spotlights the efforts of innovative leaders, educators, and children working together in nine communities nationwide to narrow the growing opportunity gap caused by socioeconomic inequality – Riverside is one of the featured cities. Take a look at the hometown heroes making a difference in our community, and inspiring others across the country. Much of what you'll hear in [this video](#) reminded me of what we also accomplish here at UCR.

### **A Final Word in a Challenging Time:**

Lastly, this summer has been full of sorrow, with at least four horrific shootings taking place – including in Gilroy, California; Dayton, Ohio; El Paso, Texas; and this month as a gunman opened fire on police officers on the 215-freeway overpass, here in Riverside. Like many in our community, I have found these unspeakable events to be deeply troubling, not just for those involved, but for the many communities across the country and all of us who've grown weary of gun violence in America. UCR offers many services to support our campus and community during these difficult times, and you can read more about them [here](#).

Further, I encourage us all to revisit the UCR Principles of Community [here](#) to be reminded of our commitment to one another and our campus community. Together, we stand in solidarity against all forms of hate and violence, as we work toward building a community of which we can all be proud.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kim A. Wilcox', written in a cursive style.

Kim A. Wilcox  
Chancellor