

UCLA Undergraduate Education

Dear Friends,

I hope this message finds you healthy and safe as we navigate these unique and challenging times with an abundance of Bruin optimism. In lieu of the March 16 awards ceremony at Chancellor and Mrs. Block's residence, I am pleased to share some key updates on the Philanthropy as Civic Engagement course at UCLA.

A Message from Chancellor Block and Mrs. Carol Block

On behalf of my wife Carol and me, I want to share that we were very much looking forward to welcoming you to our home for the Philanthropy as Civic Engagement reception on March 16. While the choice to cancel the event was difficult, know that every decision we make is guided by our top priority of protecting the health and safety of our Bruin and global communities, in what continues to be a rapidly evolving environment. While we are considering the possibility of re-envisioning an event for the future, we would like to take this opportunity to thank you for supporting the Philanthropy as Civic Engagement Class at UCLA.

Our society depends on philanthropy to survive and thrive. Whether it is medical research or arts funding, pursuing social justice or providing educational scholarships, almost every sector committed to the public good relies on personal generosity and the far-sighted vision of philanthropists. As you might guess, as chancellor I spend a lot of time talking to donors. I've seen first-hand that it is a special kind of person who wants to turn their personal good fortune into communal good fortune. That philanthropic desire to help others succeed does not necessarily come automatically. Philanthropy is a culture and a calling—a way of seeing the world and understanding your role in it. It is also a skill that requires care, time and effort to hone.

That is why I am so proud that UCLA offers the Philanthropy as Civic Engagement course, which employs experiential learning to teach students about how philanthropy can transform lives here in Los Angeles and beyond. Public service is central to UCLA's mission. We want to equip students to make it central to their life's mission as well. Since the course began in 2012, students have awarded more than \$700,000 to numerous nonprofits specializing in health, arts and culture, environmental sustainability, food security, animal welfare and more.

I've said many times that a community thrives when its members are invested in each other's well-being. I can think of no better example of that principle than the work of the donors, professors, students, and community partners who make the Philanthropy course so successful. In the months ahead, the philanthropic spirit will be more important than ever in helping our communities weather the storms of the unexpected. All of you who help nurture that spirit have my thanks, my congratulations and my deep respect.

Sincerely,

Gene D. Block
Chancellor



About Philanthropy as Civic Engagement

Philanthropy as Civic Engagement at UCLA was created in 2012 with the purpose of igniting student interest and participation in philanthropy. Students engage in research and critical analysis of non-profit and charitable organizations that serve the Los Angeles community in order to gain an understanding and appreciation of their importance and impact, and collaborate in groups and as a "board" to direct real money to support three scalable, sustainable, and impactful organizations.

Grant Awards

After a quarter of immersive learning, research, site visits, and careful considerations, the students of the Winter 2020 cohort have made the collective decision to award \$50,000 to LA Compost, \$30,000 to PS Science, and \$20,000 to Esperanza Immigrant Rights Project.



LA Compost establishes compost hubs in shared community locations to collect compost materials, foster community resilience, and produce healthy soil within a local context. The \$50,000 grant will enable LA Compost to purchase environmentally sustainable equipment to establish a regional compost hub in Griffith Park.



PS Science is a year-long educational program that provides weekly materials and science training to educators who teach at Title I elementary schools in order to bridge the science education gap between children of varying socioeconomic backgrounds. The \$30,000 grant will enable PS Science to expand their current programming in multiple schools.



Esperanza Immigrant Rights Project teaches, defends, and empowers individuals who need assistance in the immigration system, advancing social justice for immigrants by serving some of the most vulnerable people in the Los Angeles Area – immigrants facing deportation from the U.S. The \$20,000 grant will directly support the increasing fees associated with legal representation for the populations they serve.

Student Messages



"Our board was proud to award the largest grant of \$50,000 to LA Compost to build a compost hub in Griffith Park. Although the issue of climate change can feel overwhelming, individuals can make a tangible difference by working with their community to create sustainable waste systems. Through this class, I have become a stronger advocate, leader, and global citizen for the issues that I care most about."

Marisa Woo '20



"The Philanthropy as Civic Engagement seminar is one of the most unique and rewarding experiences that UCLA has to offer. As an Events Director, I was able to work first-hand with supportive staff and hardworking students to organize a reception at the Chancellor's residence. It was incredible knowing that our dedication and efforts were supported by the faculty around us as well as Chancellor Gene Block and Mrs. Carol Block. Not only did this opportunity give us the chance to learn and grow as student leaders, it allowed us to be part of something that greatly impacted our community."

Parker Mitchell '20

Special Thanks

This year's Philanthropy as Civic Engagement Course was made possible with support from our generous philanthropic community. In particular, I would like to thank:

Chancellor Gene Block and Mrs. Carol Block for their steadfast support over the years

Women & Philanthropy at UCLA for giving \$85,000 toward a course endowment

Anonymous donors for supporting this course and philanthropy education at UCLA

I would also like to thank our outstanding students for making this year's class an absolute joy to teach, my teaching partners for guiding our students in their decision making, our guest speakers for sharing with us their time and wisdom, and our community partners for their enriching engagement with our students and for representing their organizations and the nonprofit sector so well.

As we continue to navigate this very difficult time, I will be thinking of you, wishing you, and all who you hold dear, well, and looking forward to reconnecting. Together, we will persevere.

Warm regards,

Jennifer A. Lindholm, Ph.D.
Assistant Vice Provost, Undergraduate Education
Director, Honors Programs

To make a gift to the Women & Philanthropy Fund for Philanthropy Education or for additional information about how to support the Philanthropy as Civic Engagement course at UCLA, please contact Maryam Lotfollahi, Assistant Director of Development for Undergraduate Education, at (310) 367-7329 and mloftollahi@support.ucla.edu

UGEDUCATION.UCLA.EDU
100.UCLA.EDU



UCLA College
1309 Murphy Hall, PO Box 951413
Los Angeles, CA 90095-1413
M-20936

Please review UCLA and the UCLA Foundation's Disclosure Statements for Prospective Donors at www.uclafoundation.org/disclosures

If you no longer wish to receive emails from the College of Letters and Science, you may Unsubscribe by clicking the link below.

This email was sent to mloftollahi@support.ucla.edu | [Unsubscribe](#)

UCLA External Affairs
10889 Wilshire Blvd. Ste 1000
Los Angeles, CA 90024 US