

The Provost's Forums on the Public University and the Social Good

Monday, June 2, 2014

"The Public University and the Social Good: UC Davis Student Views"



Today, the *public university* is often said to be in "crisis." The general public seems less convinced than ever before of the social value of this institution and is less willing to support it with public funds. These changes in attitude are linked to dramatic drops in state funding that threaten public institutions' ability to maintain excellence and fulfill their public-service mission.

At the same time, in response to diminished state funding as well as other social and economic conditions, the public university is changing in fundamental ways—for example, there is a greater dependence on other revenue sources and a growing use of high technology in the classroom.

The current discussion on *what the public university can and should be in the 21st century* has prominently included the often-conflicting views of experts from academia, government, and business. But the views of one key group of stakeholders, public university students, remain largely unknown.

To help address this knowledge gap, two project teams of Davis Honors Challenge (DHC) students will discuss UC Davis student views on "the public university and the social good," gleaned from an online survey, a focus group, and one-on-one interviews conducted spring quarter. The Davis Honors Challenge is part of the University Honors Program (UHP).

DHC Student Presenters: **Andrea Jao, Jack Killion, Michael Rogers, Susan Rowe, Megan Sabbah, and Jack Taylor.**

The DHC students will be joined by panelists **Adela de la Torre**, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs, Professor in the Department of Chicana/o Studies, and Director of the Center for Transnational Health, UC Davis; and **Ann Huff Stevens**, Professor and Chair of the Department of Economics, and Director of the Center for Poverty Research, UC Davis.

The student presenters will be introduced by their DHC professor, **Dr. Nesrin Sarigul-Klijn**, Professor of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering, and Director of the Space Engineering Research and Graduate Program (SpaceED), UC Davis.

Lecture:

4 to 5:15 p.m.
Multipurpose Room
Student Community Center

Reception:

5:15 to 6 p.m.
Multipurpose Room
Student Community Center

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