

CALL FOR PROPOSED SPEAKERS

THE PROVOST'S FORUMS ON THE PUBLIC UNIVERSITY AND THE SOCIAL GOOD

2015–16

To continue the university's community-wide dialogue on the role and condition of the public university in the 21st century, **suggestions are now being solicited for individuals who might participate as speakers** in the fourth year of *The Provost's Forums on the Public University and the Social Good* (academic year 2015–16).

Thematic Focus for 2015–16

This year's thematic focus is “**Threats and Challenges to the Public University: What Are They and How Can They Be Overcome?**” Speakers are requested to address both parts of this question, though they may focus primarily on one of them.

This topic encompasses a wide range of issues including (but by no means limited to) changing notions of academic work, metrics of evaluation of faculty and students' performance, the impacts of distance learning, the challenges posed by an increasingly global higher education market, or the changing curricular balance between education and skills.

About the Provost's Forums Series

The *Provost's Forums* distinguished lecture series is designed to promote informed and thoughtful dialogue, among members of the campus community and the public, about the serious challenges facing the public university, ways of responding to those challenges, and how the public university is evolving. With an ultimate goal of helping to produce a public university that our society wants and deserves, each year this series poses the following overarching question: **What should and can the public university be in the 21st century?**

Past forums have focused on privatization and commercialization; funding sources and budget constraints; educational accessibility and affordability; community engagement and regional development; academic freedom; whether there is a shortage of STEM-qualified graduates, and other topics. All relevant topics, including ones addressed in a past forum, may be addressed in 2015–16.

Established by the Office of the Provost in 2012, and directed by a rotating faculty Steering Committee representative of different UC Davis colleges and schools, the *Provost's Forums* series presents about six presentations by distinguished visitors or resident experts each year, often in conjunction with a panel discussion by UC Davis faculty and always including a period for audience questions and comments. Featured speakers may also participate in related workshops and classroom visits during their time on campus.

Designed to leverage diverse and often conflicting scholarly perspectives to inform, focus, and advance the current dialogue on the public university, the forums feature experts from all academic fields.

All interested members of the campus community and the public are cordially invited to attend all of the forums as well as the following speaker receptions.

Regular funding for the forums is provided by the Office of the Provost, the Community and Regional Development Program, and the Center for Regional Change. Additional funding for individual forums comes from other campus units.

For information on the *Provost's Forums* series and videos of previous years' main presentations, see the "Future of the Public University" webpage residing on the Provost's website (<http://provost.ucdavis.edu/initiatives-and-activities/activities/future/index.html>).

Format Possibilities for the Forums and Related Events

Forums may have different formats, including the following possibilities:

1. An invited distinguished speaker;
2. A speaker from the UC Davis community, comparably qualified; or
3. A team comprising one guest speaker and one or two speakers from the UC Davis community, comparably qualified.

The aim is for each main presentation to draw an audience of 50 to 100 persons.

Ideally, a campus unit that invites a speaker or speakers will also serve as the host department. As such, it will maximize a forum's benefit to the entire university by arranging, as appropriate, related events such as class presentations, meetings with faculty, and meals with the invitees.

Costs will be covered for an appropriate honorarium for each main speaker, plus expenses for traveling, lodging, and a public reception. Co-sponsorships are encouraged.

How to Nominate Speakers

Audience participation is vital to the success of the *Provost's Forums*. By suggesting one or more possible speakers, members of the campus community and the public can help define the specific topics to be addressed in the series. Each year's roster will present speakers from a wide range of disciplines and perspectives.

Any interested department, group, or member of the extended UC Davis community may suggest one or more candidates.

Those wishing to suggest one or more speakers for the series are asked to supply, for each name, one or two paragraphs including the following information:

1. The likely topic/s of the main presentation and how those relate to the theme “Threats and Challenges to the Public University: What Are They, and How Can They Be Overcome?”;
2. The reasons that the suggested individual/s should be invited to speak (Please address the individual’s or individuals’ qualifications, professional stature, and impact or promise of relevant work; a curriculum vitae may be sent with your suggestion, or later during the selection process);
3. *If a campus unit or UC Davis–affiliated group is making the suggestion:* An indication as to whether the unit/group is likely to be able to contribute to a forum’s financial costs, and if so, approximately how much.

The *Provost’s Forums* Steering Committee (in consultation with the Office of the Provost and others as appropriate) will review the submitted suggestions, giving most weight to those that promise, individually and as part of the year’s plan, to be of greatest interest and value to the UC Davis community. A diversity of focus and perspective among the forums will be a key criterion in determining which suggested candidates will be invited to participate.

After the initial review of speaker candidates, the Steering Committee will pursue, as appropriate, further dialogue with the units or individuals who have submitted suggestions in order to collect more information or materials, and to discuss logistical or financial arrangements, before finalizing the year’s plan.

Please send speaker suggestions (addressing the three items listed above) plus any additional supporting materials to the chair of the Steering Committee, Professor Martin Kenney, at mfkenney@ucdavis.edu.