

Dear Colleagues,

We are pleased to announce that Mesa Court Towers won the [2017 Project of the Year from Design-Build Institute of America \(DBIA\)](#). DBIA is a national organization that defines, teaches and promotes best practices in design-build project delivery.

Completed in 2016, the 250,000 square-foot, state-of-the-art housing complex provides housing for 1,016 first-year students. Amenities include study areas, computer labs, great rooms, a fitness center, recreational room, student office space, community kitchenettes, and laundry facilities. Mesa Court Towers is also home to The Anteater, a sustainable dining facility that offers healthy menus and follows zero-waste food service operations.

By using the [design-build](#) process, the \$134 million project opened only 28 months after the contract award date, at least a year faster than traditional contracting methods would allow. UCI's Building Advisory Committee ([Design & Construction Services](#), [Student Affairs](#), and [Student Housing](#)), in partnership with general contractor Hensel Phelps Construction, architectural firm Mithun, Inc., and engineering services from KHR Associates and Michael Wall Engineering, made this project a success and worthy of this prestigious award.

"This project exemplifies the best of what design-build delivers in projects nationwide. Innovation and collaboration delivered not only a spectacular student residence but a real contribution to the entire UCI community," said Lisa Washington, executive director and CEO of the DBIA.

Please join us in celebrating this prestigious award.

Sincerely,

**Thomas A. Parham, Ph.D.**  
Vice Chancellor, Student Affairs

**Ronald S. Cortez, JD, MA**  
Vice Chancellor, Administrative & Business Services

