



Dear colleagues,

Approximately 175 women from all units in DFA gathered last Friday morning for our inaugural DFA Women's Symposium. Keynote speaker, Executive Vice President—Chief Operating Officer and Chief of Staff to the President Rachael Nava, described UC's impact on California and the world, as well as her personal journey as a leader. Associate Chancellor and Chief Human Resources Officer Ramona Agrela shared legacies of past and present staff members and their impact to the UCI community, and moderated a panel of DFA women (Assistant Vice Chancellor Janet Mason, Police Officer Michele Ramirez, Budget Office Director Katherine Gallardo, and Facilities Superintendent Jacqueline Castaneda) who shared their personal stories and advice. Ann Cross from the Paul Merage School of Business ended the symposium with a workshop on personal brand development. Attendees received a copy of [Sheryl Sandberg's Lean In: Women, Work and the Will to Lead](#).

Professional headshots will be distributed within the next week, as well as photos from the event. As I mentioned at the symposium, this is just the beginning. Please take a few minutes to complete a [short survey](#) about the event, and offer suggestions about what you would like to see for the future.

Much appreciation,

Ronald S. Cortez, JD, MA
Chief Financial Officer
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