

WITH U • FOR U

DFA Employee Newsletter



A message from
Chief Financial Officer &
Vice Chancellor, Mary Lou D. Ortiz

**Managers/Supervisors: Please share this email with DFA campus temporary and contract employees. For those who do not have regular access to emails/laptops/PCs, please print and share this email accordingly.*

Dear DFA employees,

As we step into the new year, I extend my warmest greetings to each of you. Your dedication and hard work continue to be the driving force behind our division's success, and I am inspired by the commitment you bring to your roles. In this newsletter, I will share important updates and initiatives that will guide us into the coming months.

Campus Budget Model:

In the late summer of 2022, we initiated an evaluation of UC Irvine's projected structural deficit, focusing on the general campus's core operating budget. Our aim is to bridge the funding gap by exploring a new budget model that aligns with actual revenues and strategic priorities. A [joint campus communication](#) from Provost Stern and me went out on January 9 to update the campus on progress toward the [Financial Stability Plan](#) and introduce changes to [UC Irvine's budget model](#).

In summary, the Financial Stability Plan Progress Report highlights significant strides in reducing a projected structural deficit in the general campus's core operating budget, with \$55 million in budget reductions and \$5 million in space and lease savings over fiscal years 2021-22 through 2023-24. **Despite this progress, there remains a funding gap estimated at \$50-60 million annually due to continuing cost increases.** The action plan to address this gap will focus on operational efficiencies, new revenues, and potential changes in business practices. Additionally, a new budget model is being developed to better align financial resources with strategic priorities over a multi-year planning timeframe. A [town hall is scheduled for Feb. 6](#) from 12-1 p.m. to review progress and provide information about budget modeling. The new budget model is set to be implemented over a two-to-three-year phase-in period beginning in 2024-25.

The implications to DFA and individual units are being evaluated

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 Employee Profiles

 New Hires

Featured Events

February 6 | 12-1 p.m.
[Budget Town Hall](#)

New Training now available for all Supervisors/Managers!
[Reasonable Accommodations | The Interactive Process \(Part 1\)](#)
Complete this eCourse prior to registering for Part 2

February 22 | 11 a.m.-12 p.m.
[Reasonable Accommodation](#)

and are planned to be shared for the new budget cycle. Stay tuned for more information.

[and Risk of Noncompliance of ADA/FEHA \(Part 2\)](#)

Divisional Strategic Planning:

Our divisional strategic planning journey is progressing. The Strategic Planning Implementation Team, comprising of Grace Crvarich, Abbey Jeliaskova, Venee Raduziner, and Shaina Sims, has spent the last few months analyzing goals for alignment with UC Irvine's strategic plan and identifying goals requiring additional resources. A comprehensive review and approval of our divisional strategic plan are scheduled at the end of this month. Next steps include sharing the finalized draft proposal with DFA cabinet and the Strategic Advisory Network (SAN), culminating in a divisional town hall in the spring.

Lastly, this week a [joint campus email](#) announced that the UC Irvine Trademarks & Licensing Office, is now part of Strategic Communications & Public Affairs (effective Jan. 1). This strategic change aims to better align with UC Irvine's brand strategy and to support the exploration of enhanced revenue opportunities.

Feel free to share your comments and suggestions by sending an email to WithUForU@uci.edu.

Thank you for your continued dedication, hard work, and commitment to our shared goals.

Sincerely,

Mary Lou D. Ortiz

Chief Financial Officer

Vice Chancellor, Finance and Administration



DFA's Vision, Mission, and Values

We are **With U • For U**. We are proud to support the UC Irvine community. Our vision, mission, and values set our direction, guide our decisions, and foster a shared culture. [Learn more](#).



A Healthy Start to the New Year!

UC Irvine's Human Resources Wellness Program, in partnership with Health Net, offers free (no matter what health insurance plan you may have) semi-monthly wellness webinars called the [UCI Health Healthy Living Series](#) presented by experts from UCI Health and Health Net. The series shares practical tips and expert insights covering diverse topics such as healthy habits, mental wellness, financial recovery, diet, fitness, kindness, connections, chronic pain, pets, happiness, focus, work-life balance, burnout prevention, and screen time management.

When: Every other Tuesday from 3 - 4:00 p.m.

Where: Via Zoom. A link will be sent once registered; [click here](#) for the schedule of upcoming sessions and to register.

Elevate your well-being for a fantastic year ahead!

Join the voluntary **2024 UCI Wellness Ambassador team**. This is an exciting opportunity for those seeking professional development and skills enhancement in communication, facilitation, and marketing. Meetings are held quarterly, and all UC Irvine locations (including virtual) are welcome to join! These volunteers play an important role in creating a supportive culture of whole-person wellness by promoting awareness and co-worker participation in the programs, services, and events. The 2024 Wellness Ambassador Kick-off Meeting will be held in mid-February.

How to join:

- Obtain your supervisor's approval to become a Wellness Ambassador
- [Complete the 2024 online registration](#)

Visit: hr.uci.edu/wellness/wellness-ambassadors.php for more information.

Article provided by DFA-HR



Continuous Improvement Tools and Templates: Brainstorming

[DFA's Program Development and Execution website](#) features a variety of tools and templates in the areas of process improvement, project management, and change management to support staff in their process improvement projects and efforts.

Tool Spotlight: Brainstorming

Brainstorming is a technique used to provide a group with a wide range of ideas around any topic in a short period of time. Designed to stimulate the creative thinking process, it helps make sure diverse ideas from all group members are considered. A facilitator helps guide the session, introducing the goal and any relevant information, setting ground rules, and keeping track of time. [Learn more](#) about this technique and [download a template](#).

Contact us at WithUForU@uci.edu with any questions and suggestions for additional tools.

Article provided by DFA Program Development & Execution



Giving Back: Clash of Cans Recap

UCI Transportation is proud to announce that through partnerships across campus departments and UCI Health, we donated over 1,800 pounds of food and \$420 in monetary donations to the [UCI Basic Needs Center](#) and the [Orange County Food Bank](#) during the 2023 Clash of the Cans food drive! These efforts support both organizations in providing essential supplies and securing the basic needs of our local community. These campaigns help us continue serving our community and strengthen our relationships with campus and external partners. Thank you to all our DFA partners who participated and your continued support in the fight against hunger!

Article provided by UC Irvine Transportation & Distribution Services



Giving Back: Toy Drive Recap

The UCI Police Department's (UCIPD) annual Toy Drive took place between November 14 and December 20. This year's drive was especially successful as UCIPD collected hundreds of toys which were then distributed to charitable organizations including children's units across UCI Health and Crime Survivors, Inc. A very enthusiastic crowd attended the UCI men's basketball game vs. South Dakota on December 16. Scores of fans participated in the Toy Toss where plush toys of all sizes were tossed onto the court at halftime of the game in which UCI cruised to a 121-78 victory. Lastly, UCIPD officers and professional staff sponsored family "4Q" in the Helping Hands event and received a nice thank you letter from the very appreciative family.



UCI Zoom Help Center

Review these helpful guides, tools, and resources to get the most of your UCI Zoom account which is available for all current students, staff, and faculty to support remote teaching, learning, and working at UCI:

- [UCI Zoom Help Center](#)
 - [Quick Start Guide](#)
 - [Advanced UCI Zoom configuration guide](#)
 - [FAQs](#)
 - If you can't find what you need or are having difficulty, please [open a support ticket via OIT's self-service form](#), or contact the OIT Help Desk at [949-824-2222](tel:949-824-2222) or oit@uci.edu.
- [UCI Zoom](#)
- [Zoom Support](#)



Lab Safety Inspections

Did you know Environmental Health & Safety (EHS) performs over 500 Lab Safety Inspections annually? When we revamped the program in 2020, we found over 3,500 findings. Over the last three years we reduced the total number of findings annually to around 2,000 findings. Our great team of EHS professionals continue to identify hazards in laboratories while our EHS coordinators collaborate with labs to resolve these findings.



UCI UCPATH Team Highlights

The UC Irvine UCPATH team achieved many [accomplishments in 2023](#) and looks forward to a dynamic 2024. Our focus remains on providing support and continuous improvement for UCPATH and related systems. This year, we've aligned our goals with [DFA's strategic plan](#) as we collaborate with our partner organizations, campus, UCI Health, UC partner locations, and the UCPATH Center to provide significant improvements, innovation, and efficiencies to our stakeholders.

2023 Highlights Include:

Joined Accounting & Fiscal Services, which enhanced collaboration and efficiencies.

- Worked on [UCPath Roadmap projects](#) that drive innovation and efficiencies, including Salary Cost Transfer Redesign, Direct Hire Stabilization, and Lived Name projects.

Upcoming 2024 [UCPath Roadmap Projects](#) Include:

- Replace PayPath Phase II
- New Employee Case Submission Form
- Ability to Reopen Cases
- Redesigned Former Employee Portal
- Improve Accrual Management
- Rewrite GL Assessments
- Gender Identity Pronouns

Article provided by UC Irvine UCPath



Design and Construction Services Spotlight

Design & Construction Services (DCS) is led by Associate Vice Chancellor Brian Pratt who also holds the roles of campus architect and designated building official for the campus. DCS's role supports UC Irvine's strategic plan through the design and construction of new and renovated facilities that offer unmatched quality and timeless architecture.

Our highly skilled team consists of architects, engineers, project managers, inspectors, contract administrators, and financial experts who collectively work together with selected contractors and designers from project inception through construction close out and warranty to ensure successful execution of top-notch facilities that will be utilized and enjoyed for many years to come. Key department functions include:

- Budget & Finance Administration
- Construction & Inspection
- Contract Administration
- Project Management

Projects in the "Spotlight"

Below are some of the current "SPOTLIGHT" construction buildings that everyone has their eyes on, including the surrounding community, with many more exciting upcoming projects on the horizon. Stay tuned!



UCI Health - Irvine



Joe C. Wen & Family Center for Advanced Care



Falling Leaves Foundation Medical Innovation Building



Mesa Court Housing Expansion

Article provided by UC Irvine Design & Construction Services



**Sustainability Corner:
Recycling & Refuse**

UC Irvine has committed to achieving the [UCOP goal of Zero Waste](#). Zero Waste allows us to minimize the material going into landfill and maximize the materials that are recycled and composted, leading to a lower carbon footprint and a cleaner environment. UCOP has defined Zero Waste as diverting 90% or more of campus solid waste from landfill - making the actual waste from the university as close to zero as possible. Check out UC Irvine Facilities Management's updated [compost, landfill, and recycle signs](#).



**Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion:
AccessibiliTrees Badging Program**

UC Irvine's commitment to creating content that is accessible, usable, and inclusive requires the effort of every Anteater - whether student, faculty, or staff.

The [AccessibiliTrees program](#) will help you grow your knowledge and practice of accessibility principles from a Zot Sprout, to an Anteater Sapling, to a full-grown AccessibiliTree. In each level, you can choose your own adventure from various quick and easy activities. When you complete a level, you'll receive a badge you can share in your email signature and social media profiles.

Join us by becoming an AccessibiliTree and help UC Irvine's Accessibility Forest thrive!

DFA EMPLOYEE PROFILES



Patricia Martinez
Custodian, Facilities Management

I have been at UCI and in my current position for one and a half years. I'm responsible for the cleaning of facilities areas.

What aspect of your job do you enjoy the most? That I'm able to walk to various areas and I'm not in one place.

What is one accomplishment at work that you are most proud? Why? That I get along with everyone.

After a long day at work, what do you look forward to the most? Go home and spend time with my family.

Favorite travel spot? Beach.

If Hollywood made a movie about your life, who would you like to see cast as you? Salma Hayek.

What is the weirdest thing you've ever eaten? Frog legs.

Motto or Personal Mantra: Work smart not hard.



Colleen Beaton
Director, Business Services

I have been at UCI for five years and have been in my current position for the last two years. Primarily, oversight of payroll processing for all DFA employees as well as annual software licensing renewals and serving as a Departmental Time Administrator for DFA; however, with the creation of the new DFA Business Office, my team and I are also responsible for managing the DFA Equipment Committee, serving as DFA Security Administrators, Aldrich Hall Key Administrators, and Departmental Buyers for several DFA Departments.

What aspect of your job do you enjoy the most? The variety and the great colleagues I get to work with every day.

What has been your favorite project at UCI/department? The implementation of the ServiceNow pilot in DFA in collaboration with Jen Swann from DFA-IT and Shane O'Brien from Emergency Management as a Lean Six Sigma Yellow Belt project. This platform has helped my department immensely over the past year and I look forward to assisting other DFA departments integrate this concept into their

workflows in the near future.

Who is one colleague that deserves praise and recognition? Why? All of them! It is wonderful to work with colleagues who share the same mission, vision, and values. Not to mention they are all genuinely good people.

Favorite travel spot? Cabo San Lucas – hoping to retire there someday as soon as I learn to speak Spanish. Any takers???

If you were to write a book about yourself, what would you name it? “No One Here Gets Out Alive,” but that was already taken by Jim Morrison.

Motto or Personal Mantra: A woman is like a tea bag - you can't tell how strong she is until you put her in hot water.

DFA NEW HIRES

DFA new hires hired between November 1, 2023 to January 31, 2023.

Accounting & Fiscal Services:

- Keziah Morris

Budget Office:

- Alana Loht
- Anjali Mathuria
- Tina Jeliazkov

Design & Construction Services:

- Kyle Prenzlou
- Lezlie Lee Howard
- Nicholas Hopkins
- Skye Paig

Environmental Health & Safety:

- Jared Galvas

Facilities Management:

- Antonio J Chavez
- Antonio Sanchez
- Daniel Rodriguez Barragan
- Fabian Aceves
- Joseph Avalos
- Roberto Nuno
- Ryen Berg
- Shawn Meredith

UCI Division of Finance and Administration | With U • For U

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