

# UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, BERKELEY

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SANTA BARBARA • SANTA CRUZ

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## *A Message to Parents and Guardians of our Newly Admitted Students*

As Chancellor of the University of California, Berkeley, I extend my congratulations to your child on having received an offer of admission to one of the world's leading universities. I also want to welcome you and your family to the UC Berkeley community and it is my pleasure to share with you what makes the place we fondly call "Cal" such a special place.

UC Berkeley draws the best minds from around the world to create a dynamic community. Among our distinguished faculty we count 359 Guggenheim Fellows, 115 Sloan Fellows (young researchers), 8 Nobel Prize winners, 4 Pulitzer Prize winners, and 1 National Poet Laureate.

The brilliant and accomplished scholars on our faculty extend the frontiers of knowledge about ourselves and our world, and point the way to the future. Their discoveries — working with our exceptionally talented students in our laboratories and classrooms, and supported by a proud, deeply loyal and hard-working staff — make breakthroughs that transform our world.

For example, a team led by cosmologist George Smoot obtained evidence that revealed the early beginnings of galaxies and clusters of galaxies. These findings confirmed the predictions of the Big Bang theory, and in 2006, Professor Smoot was awarded the Nobel Prize in Physics. In 2009 Oliver Williamson became our third faculty member in our Department of Economics to earn the Nobel Prize since 2000, bringing the number of UC Berkeley Nobel Laureates to 21.

UC Berkeley's commitment to excellence is demonstrated by the 35,000 students who are receiving a world-class education here, and also by over 450,000 living alumni who are proud and distinguished graduates. The first-year retention rate for freshmen is 97 percent which is testimony to our successful environment. We graduate fully 90 percent of our students within six years. By comparison, the national average hovers around 60 percent.

As well as classroom experience, students should have formal opportunities for developing their leadership skills outside the classroom. We provide leadership training and opportunities that allow students to participate in extracurricular programs that will prepare them to be more engaged citizens in a multicultural world and to develop the character and skills that will prepare them for life after university. Some of the many opportunities and programs we offer include the Big Ideas at Berkeley Initiative, which

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funds student-led projects, the Cal Corps Public Service Center, the Cal Student Leadership Symposium and Center for Student Leadership, and our Career Center; the latter provides a variety of internship opportunities and extensive career counseling services. You may want to join our community of Cal Parents, an organization offering an array of services for parents of UC Berkeley students.

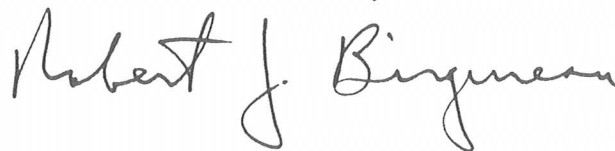
Our public character gives us a competitive edge, in that we are arguably the only university in the top echelon that combines comprehensive excellence with broad access to students from all socioeconomic levels. This advantage creates an exciting and enriching environment for social growth as well as academic achievement. Our campus boasts more than 1,400 student organizations, including 65 recognized Greek chapters, 207 professional organizations, and 255 academic clubs. We also have world-class intercollegiate athletics, lectures by cultural luminaries, and showcases by leading performing artists.

There is much more to discover about UC Berkeley, and it is difficult to convey in a short letter the depth and breadth of this remarkable University's value. I invite you and your child to visit and explore our campus for yourselves. To help you prepare a trip, we have developed a brochure, that you will find inside your child's admission packet, which offers messages from our current students detailing their personal experiences at UC Berkeley. You also will find a campus map and the names of Admissions staff members who can assist your child in planning a special day on our campus.

Again, my warmest congratulations and welcome to the UC Berkeley community.

With warm regards.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert J. Birgeneau". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent initial "R".

Robert J. Birgeneau