

UCI SCHOLARSHIPS

THE SCOOP



Courtesy of University of California, Irvine

Scholars Meet & Greet

Larissa Teramura
Timmy Tran

Donor Spotlight

Experian

UCI Summer Session

Learn more about UCI
Summer!



DONOR SPOTLIGHT

Experian has gifted their support of the UCI-OC Alliance by providing scholarships for students who are high-performing undergraduate students and have demonstrated their commitment to engage with the Latino/a community both actively and positively. In 2017, the US Department of Education designated UCI as a Hispanic Serving Institution (HSI). The purpose of the UCI-OC Alliance is to advance UCI as a thriving HSI University through engaging and supporting Latino/a students, staff, and faculty. The Alliance has advanced its purpose through communication, collaboration, and engagement with the University administration and support groups. They have also participated and provided active support of Latino/a events and programs on campus.

Post-pandemic, higher education remains out of reach for Latino/a students who are forgoing or postponing their plans primarily for financial reasons (2022, UnidosUS). Experian understands the stress that can come from being worried about making ends meet and not being able to focus on your studies. "Supporting UCI, a HSI, and the scholarship recipients, is a way to invest in the future of Latino/a leaders in our community and a future of legacy for the Hispanic community overall. We are proud to support this commitment to the Latino/a community which makes up one in five workers by 2030. These scholars are imperative to our nation's economic recovery and progression" said Raudy Perez, Director of DEI External partnerships for Experian.

Diversity, Equity, and inclusion fuels Exper-

ian's innovations to create a better tomorrow and financially empowers the communities in which we live, work, and serve. UCI students can demonstrate their commitment to engage with the Latino/a community by paying it forward. Experian encourages students to tell their stories to be inspirations for others so that others can feel empowered to do the same. They can be a voice for the community, to speak up and feel empowered to share their thoughts about what is needed to bolster their success. In the spirit of creating a structure where we can all thrive, Experian encourages UCI students to hold organizations like theirs accountable when they fall short in supporting communities the way they say they will.

Experian is committed to increasing representation of the Hispanic community, not just within their own organization but across the corporate workforce. They would love to see more leading employers in the area support the scholarship and sponsor other engagements with students so that everyone can learn and grow together. It would be a model for them to scale across the UC system. Their mission is to create a better tomorrow through financial inclusion for all. They are proud to support the UCI-OC Alliance Scholarship, the recipients, their families, and the educators who are helping students achieve their life's goals. Experian looks forward to watching how scholars progress and grow in their life and careers and are grateful to be a part of their journey.

Citations

UnidosUs , A Look into Latino Trends in Higher Education: Enrollment, Completion, & Student Debt. (2022, July). UnidosUs. https://unidosus.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/unidosus_latinotrendsinhighered_revision.pdf

Scholar of UC Irvine

LARISSA TERAMURA

Larissa is a first year Biomedical Engineering student at UC Irvine. She is a recipient of the Retiree Association Legacy Scholarship. Originally from Hawaii, she is currently on UCI's tennis team.



How has the transition been from moving to California from Hawaii?

It is a lot colder here than I am used to. It is also an adjustment getting used to the college schedule, tennis schedule, and trying to get all my classwork done while also participating on the tennis team. It has been good so far though. I am starting to get into my stride and manage my time better.

Describe your journey to UCI and what have you learned so far in your journey?

I kind of always knew that I wanted to go to college. My dad, uncle, and aunt all went to UCI. They all really enjoyed their experience here. When I found out that I got in and got a spot in the tennis team, it showed me that all the hard work that I put into my academics and in my tennis is helping me continue my family legacy to go to UCI.

I learned that I am really capable of succeeding academically and at a collegiate level for tennis. It is showing

me that my time management skills are good enough to manage being a student athlete in an institution as prestigious as this, where the academics are tough and I picked a difficult major to do both, but I knew that is what I wanted to do. So far, this journey has proven to me that I am capable of doing it.

What advice do you have for other students on how to stay organized between sports, academics, and personal life?

For me, I make a checklist of what I need to get done during the week. It helps me because then I can plan out when I want to get my work done or when I have free time to relax so I do not get overwhelmed with the things that I have to do. It is also satisfying to check off everything that I am completing, and it makes me feel more productive and motivates me to keep on working throughout the week.

What interested you in majoring in Biomedical Engineering?

I wanted to do something related to the medical field because I wanted to help

people. I was not sure if I was ready to make the commitment with the 10 years of postsecondary education. I noticed that biomed has a lot of different aspects in various fields that I was interested in, and it involved aspects of science and math and hands on learning. It combined all the things that I would like to do with a new challenge of doing it with engineering. I thought that it combined my interests to make a major that I would enjoy and succeed in, in the future.

How has the scholarship helped you?

This scholarship has considerably helped my family and me. We were hit pretty hard by the Covid-19 pandemic. In Hawaii, we were shut down for 2 years and a lot of my dad's work involves working with people that are high risk, so the pandemic cut down on a lot of his work. This scholarship helped us pay for the cost of my education here as the out of state tuition is more expensive. It also helps relieve the debt that my family and I have to go to as we did not have to take out as much in loans this year because of the scholarship.

Scholar of UC Irvine

TIMMY TRAN

Timmy is a fourth year Physical Science major at UC Irvine. He is a recipient of the AYZ Family Foundation Scholarship.



Has being a first-generation student affected your education and what you learned?

For me, being a first generation student affected my education financially and psychologically. My mother is a single parent and we essentially live paycheck to paycheck, so I often worry about how I will pay for college and housing. This, along with the fact that I am the first person in my family to attend college, creates a lot of internal pressure for me to do well in school and have a successful career. I feel a degree of responsibility for lifting my family out of poverty and serving as a good example for my sister and cousins. At times, I feel a sense of survivor's guilt for leaving my family, and having opportunities and resources that my family do not. Although being a first-generation student in higher education has come with its challenges, it has taught me the values of hard work, responsibility, and resilience, and these same challenges motivate me to keep trudging forward.

What are your education and career goals?

My goal is to obtain a Master's or EdS in school psychology and become a school psychologist. I am actually in the process of applying to school psychology programs at the time of writing. I chose to go into this field because I enjoy helping other people and want to work to support students through developmental and mental health issues. I chose school psychology specifically because of its greater emphasis on assessment and the fact that I can work in school settings.

What has your experience been like at UCI? What have you learned?

My experience at UCI has been great and I find it bittersweet that it is soon coming to an end. All of the professors that I have had have been really kind, knowledgeable, and approachable. I will certainly miss the beautiful campus and the friends I've made during my time here. I think one of the most important things that I have learned is how to be responsible and manage my time. In the spring quarter of my third year, I started working overnight as a program aide at a residential treatment center. This was my first real job, and because it was overnight, meant that I had to get really good at

planning out my schedule and managing my time. Another thing that I learned is the importance of building relationships with professors and other people that you work with. Although it can be anxiety-provoking, meeting with your professors during office hours just to introduce yourself and ask questions about their research can really go a long way, especially if you intend to go to grad school.

How have scholarships helped you through the process of pursuing your goal?

First of all, I would like to thank the AYZ Family Foundation for their generosity and support of me and other students at UCI. Coming from a single parent household, scholarships have given me the peace of mind to continue my education without worrying about finances or burdening my family. They have helped me significantly by reducing stress, ensuring that I can go through college comfortably, and enabling me to work less and focus more on school.

UCI Summer Session

In late 1968, the campus administration decided to institute a program of self-supported summer course offerings and to place it under the supervision of the Dean of University Extension. UCI Summer Session began enrolling students in the summer of 1969 and have successfully serviced students each summer for over 50 years under University Extension, now called the Division of Continuing Education (DCE). In 2015, the Summer Session department moved from under DCE to become the Division of Summer Session under the Office of the Vice Provost for Teaching & Learning (OVPTL).

UCI Summer Session allows for open enrollment and the courses they offer during the summer are available to everyone. The department offers courses in 70 different academic disciplines and students can choose from over 800+ courses during the summer (in-person or online courses) throughout their 3 sessions (Session 1, Session 10 week, and Session 2).



Summer Session's student workers tabling at SOAR's Puppies and Pathfinders Event.

The condensed format of their sessions allows for an intense education experience while allowing flexibility in how students spend their summers. UCI Summer Session serves UCI students (both undergraduate and graduate), welcoming visiting UC students, international students, visiting college students, and other community members who wish to tap into the education resources of UCI.

There are many benefits for students who



OVPTL, Division of Summer Session Team

enroll and participate in the courses that Summer Session has to offer. High school students can enroll in classes for credit to be considered towards their high school GPA. International students can take advantage of summer's online courses. Current UCI students can continue to make progress towards their degree and/or lessen the load of courses needed during the regular school year. Summer Session also offers an early start program during the Summer called "Freshman Edge" that will provide incoming Freshman with a rich academic, social, and personal foundation at UCI and beyond.

For Summer Session 2023, the Summer Session department is offering a free discount program for all current and incoming UC students called "Pay for only 8." Students will need to pay for up to only 8 units in per unit course fees plus any applicable fees. By University policy, summer fees are based on the fees charged in the subsequent academic year. Financial aid is available to assist UCI students in meeting the costs of attending Summer Session as well as the department's new Summer Student Success Scholarship. UCI Summer Grant funds and direct loans will be available to students who meet eligibility requirements. The Summer Session team includes a diverse staff dedicated to ensuring all students who enroll in Summer Session courses receive the highest standard of service and support. It is their pleasure to be able to serve a diverse variety of different student populations.