Legislative Advocacy Volunteers

UC Santa Cruz Legislative Advocacy Program
The Government & Community Relations division is the link between the campus and community and between the University and government. We work to build bridges between UC Santa Cruz our surrounding communities of the Monterey Bay and Silicon Valley and the government entities with which we interact each day by providing ideas, information, counsel and assistance.

UC Santa Cruz’s advocacy program relies heavily on alumni volunteers to raise their voice and tell their story to elected, business, and civic leaders. Our UC Santa Cruz Legislative Advocates are volunteers (alumni, students, faculty, staff, and supporters) who believe in the power of higher education and the educational experience and opportunities available at UC Santa Cruz. By partnering with the Government & Community Relations staff, our Legislative Advocates take their unique story and message to local, state and federal elected officials, government agencies and community leaders and demonstrate for our elected leaders the importance of higher education and the need to make investment in higher education a top priority.

What it means to be a UCSC Advocate

Legislative advocacy may consist of one or more of the following activities:

- Sign-up to be an “e-Advocate” and receive occasional e-mail alerts notifying you of important budget or legislative matters. It will direct you to a link and template letter that you can send, electronically, to your elected representative. Sign-up at www.ucforcalifornia.org/santacruz/home/.
- Meet in a small group with YOUR State Assemblymember, Senator, and Congressmember in their district (local) offices to talk about your experience and support for public higher education and the need to ensure educational opportunities are available to future Californians.
- Participate in UC-wide annual lobbying visits in Sacramento and Washington, D.C.
- Attend forums and lunches hosted by UC Santa Cruz for our elected leaders. Learn more about their positions and convey your thoughts and ideas about public higher education.
- Visit your state Assemblymember’s and Senator’s website and sign-up to receive their newsletter. Watch for town hall meetings and “open house” opportunities in your neighborhood. This can be a good way to connect with your Legislators and ask questions or talk briefly about the importance of higher education.
- Attend candidates’ forums in your district and ask candidates running for state or federal office how they would seek to improve public higher education opportunities for all Californians.
- Inform the Government and Community Relations staff if you have special relationships with any statewide office holder and whether you would be willing to meet with this legislator regarding UC and UC Santa Cruz.

Government & Community Relations can help arrange appointments, provide you materials and supplies. If you are interested in being a UC Santa Cruz Legislative Advocate, please contact Melissa Whatley at mwhatley@ucsc.edu or at (831) 459-3470.