

# WITH U • FOR U

## DFA Employee Newsletter



A message from  
Chief Financial Officer and  
Vice Chancellor Ronald S. Cortez

*\*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,

Earlier this month, many of us returned to work back on campus in preparation for the start of in-person instruction. As students enter their second week of classes, each of you should recognize the positive outcomes of your work leading up to this momentous occasion. As we return to campus, it is important to reiterate your health and well-being is of utmost importance. The campus held a series of [Campus Dialogues](#) to address a wide variety of topics in navigating our return to campus ranging from air ventilation, hybrid conference rooms, in-person instruction, campus protocols, work/life balance concluding with a Chancellor's fall welcome. The following recordings are available online:

- [Return to Campus: Facilities & Environmental Health](#)
- [Navigating the New Hybrid Work Environment](#)
- [Managing Campus Public Health & Individual Care](#)
- [Chancellor Fall Welcome Dialogue](#)

As a reminder, UCI Forward provides information campus updates and information regarding COVID-19 and our return back to campus. UCI's daily symptom check application must be completed each day you are scheduled to work.

Again, I'd like to reiterate my appreciation to each of you for your support in advancing UCI's brilliant future. As a reminder, the deadline to [nominate](#) a coworker or team for this cycle of [DFA Employee Recognition program](#) is **September 30, 2021**. All nominees will be recognized on our website and during November's town hall.

I look forward to our new chapter. Please make sure you have open dialogue with your supervisor and/or department head. In addition, please submit any questions, concerns, or comments through this [survey link](#) or send an email to [WithUForU@uci.edu](mailto:WithUForU@uci.edu).

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## DFA Events

**Thursday, November 4**  
**(10:30 a.m. - 12 p.m.):**  
[DFA Town Hall](#)

**Now – December 2021**  
[DFA Lean In Sessions](#)



With appreciation,

**Ronald S. Cortez, JD, MA (Pronouns: he/him/his)**  
Chief Financial Officer  
Vice Chancellor, Division of Finance and Administration



### DFA Balanced Scorecard Strategy

*The Division of Finance and Administration (DFA) serves all UCI students, faculty, staff, and visitors. We are **With U • For U**—working alongside you, in support of you—as planning partners, problem solvers, and solution providers. We maintain a safe and attractive physical environment, offer professional services and support, and are committed to diversity and inclusive excellence.*



## Learning & Growth: Fall 2021

As we step into fall, consider enriching your learning and growth journey with new opportunities:

- **DFA Lean In Sessions:** [Register](#) to attend the next DFA Lean In Session [Allow Yourself to Be Brilliant – Advice for Women](#) on October 22, 9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. View the [flyer for monthly session details](#) and [register for one or more sessions through December 2021](#).
- **NCCI Conference Materials:** Materials from [NCCI's July 2021 Annual Conference](#) is available for viewing. You can [still register](#) to access the full conference content. If you attended the conference, you can view all session recordings, related materials, and slides in the [Conference](#)

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[Library](#). Email [info@ncci-cu.org](mailto:info@ncci-cu.org) or call 883-469-6224 with any questions regarding registration or conference materials access.

Visit [DFA Learning & Growth](#) for more training and growth resources and offerings. Email [WithUForU@uci.edu](mailto:WithUForU@uci.edu) with any questions.

*Article provided by the Office of the CFO and Vice Chancellor*

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A blue rectangular graphic with yellow text and a white circular icon of a person wearing a face mask. The text reads "Face Coverings Distribution" in large yellow font, followed by "Schedule your pick up today!" in smaller yellow font. At the bottom left, it says "UCI Environmental Health & Safety" in white. The icon is a white circle containing a blue line-art drawing of a person's head and shoulders wearing a face mask.

**Face Coverings Distribution**

Schedule your pick up today!

UCI Environmental Health & Safety

## Face Coverings Distribution

EHS continues to distribute face coverings and provide voluntary use respirators, also known as N95s. Face coverings may be requested by sending an email to [safety@uci.edu](mailto:safety@uci.edu) to arrange for quantity, pickup day, and time. If requesting N95s, individuals are required to take a 5-minute training in UCLC by searching for "N95 Voluntary Use" and then presenting proof of training completion at any of the campus locations listed on the following webpage: [ehs.uci.edu/public-health/covid-19/face-covering-distribution.php](https://ehs.uci.edu/public-health/covid-19/face-covering-distribution.php). For questions regarding N95s, contact EHS at [safety@uci.edu](mailto:safety@uci.edu).

*Article provided by UCI Environmental Health and Safety*

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### Inclusive IT Language Guide

OIT is committed to building a positive and inclusive environment that drives engagement, supports development, and enhances



### How to Register Your Device for Internet Access

[Register](#) the hardware (MAC) address of either your mobile device (smartphone, laptop, or

performance. The [Inclusive IT Language Guide](#) should guide your terminology choices in your documentation, codebase, and discussions.

tablet) or Ethernet card (wired connection in some computers) to get internet access while on campus.



*Ron Cortez (pictured right) presents UCI's electric bus to Secretary Walsh (picture left) and Chancellor Gillman (pictured center).*

## Showcasing UCI's Sustainable Transportation Infrastructure

[U.S. Secretary of Labor Martin Walsh](#) joined Vice Chancellor Ron Cortez, Chancellor Gillman, and other executive leadership on a visit centered on workforce implications on furthering the development of a more sustainable transportation infrastructure. A large focus centered on a national network of electric vehicle charging stations which is a key component of proposed legislation.

Executive Director Ron Fleming was able to showcase a number of [sustainable commuting options](#) including the [Pump2Plug](#) program and electric fleet which includes an electric passenger bus, a pickup truck equipped with a mobile, rapid charging system, and a zero-emission cargo/work truck that operates on the campus.

Other notable attendees include UCI Alumna [Congresswomen Katie Porter](#) representing California's 45th Congressional District, [Congressman Mike Levin](#) representing California's 49th Congressional District, and City of Irvine Mayor Farrah Khan.

Click [here](#) to read more about the visit.

*Article provided by UCI Transportation & Distribution Services*





Sierra Magazine Cool School 2021 (left). Sustainability Superstar Infographic (right).

## UCI is No. 2 in Sierra magazine's 2021 'Cool Schools'

The Office of Campus Physical and Environmental Planning coordinates the preparation of UCI's comprehensive sustainability report for national and international rankings. This is a collaborative campus effort that involves several DFA departments. We appreciate everyone's efforts in helping UCI be recognized as a sustainability leader.

The green streak continues! Sierra magazine has named the University of California, Irvine No. 2 overall in its annual "Cool Schools" ranking of sustainability leaders among U.S. and Canadian universities and colleges, marking the 12th time in a row that UCI has placed in the top 10 of the widely acclaimed list.

UCI's history of environmental stewardship dates back to the Nobel Prize-winning research by chemistry professor F. Sherwood Rowland into the depletion of the ozone layer almost five decades ago. This work led to the development and growth of UCI's campus culture of eco-friendly practices, groundbreaking sustainability research and remarkable green accomplishments that has put the university at the forefront of American higher education. For this, UCI has twice won California's top environmental honor, the Governor's Environmental and Economic Leadership Award, in 2008 and 2013.

[Read the entire article.](#)

*Article provided by UCI Campus Physical & Environmental Planning*



Some photos of the completed grounds maintenance areas during project: Aldrich Park (left) and Ring Mall (right).

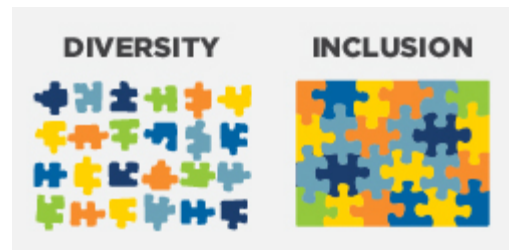
## UCI FM Grounds Back to School Summer Clean-Up Project

Following the COVID pandemic, Facilities Management Grounds Department has taken on the summer seasonal project to prepare the UCI Campus for a healthy and happy return to work/school for 2021 fall quarter. This project is to address all maintenance needs in an all-inclusive fashion by teaming with FM Trades and various campus partners.

### Clean-up Project Tasks Include the General Landscape Maintenance Clean-Up Consisting of:

- Trash and debris clean-up
- Tree debris clean-up: leaf, fruit, and seed pod droppings
- Hardscape sidewalks/plazas: blowing & clean-up
- Plant trimming and bark exfoliating
- Tree stake straightening & removal
- Low hanging tree branch trimming
- Shrub and hedge pruning
- Ground cover pruning: edges of beds/hardscapes & GC removal from bed tree circles
- Weeding: large weed mechanical removal, spraying weeds below 4"
- Dead plant removal & documentation for replacement
- Applying pre-emergent herbicide and hardwood mulch to 3" depth in bare dirt areas
- Final clean-up and ongoing maintenance

*Article provided by UCI Facilities Management*



## [UCOP Policy to Scrap Single-Use Plastics](#)

In support of a systemwide initiative, UCI is transitioning away from plastic bags, food service items, and bottles in retail and dining locations as part of zero waste goals. Below is a timeline of the phase-out plan:

- Jan. 1, 2021: Plastic bags in retail and food services eliminated.
- July 1, 2021: Single-use plastic food service items (straws, utensils, stirrers) replaced by compostable or reusable alternatives.
- July 1, 2021: Dine-in facilities will provide reusable food service items (plates, cups) and to-go facilities will provide compostable or reusable alternatives.
- Jan. 1, 2023: Purchase, sale, and distribution on single-use plastic beverage bottles phased out.

## Diversity vs. Inclusion

Diversity and inclusion are so often used in the same sentence that we might think they mean the same thing. Diversity is the human differences that are both visible and invisible, such as age, gender, disability, ethnic background as well as socioeconomic status, sexual orientation and marital status. Inclusion refers to a cultural and environmental feeling of belonging. In a work environment inclusion would be a culture where employees feel comfortable, included, and accepted. True workplace inclusion removes barriers, discrimination, and intolerance to ensure that all employees feel included and supported.



## DFA Employee Recognition Program

Every day is an opportunity for colleagues and managers/supervisors to recognize the great work of our people in the following categories:

- **CARE** (Customer Appreciation Repeatedly Expressed)
- **IDEA** (Innovate Discover Encourage Achieve)
- **SAFE** (Safety Award For Excellence)
- **TEAM** (Together Everyone Achieves More)

Submit your online [nomination!](#) [Click here](#) to view a list of past nominees.

# EMPLOYEE PROFILES



**Veronica Delgado**  
**Custodian, Facilities Management**

I have worked at UCI and been in my current position for three years. My responsibilities are cleaning of campus buildings.

**What are 3 words to describe your department?** Team players, helpful, and hardworking.

**What do you like most about UCI/department?** They are always willing to help when needed.

**Favorite travel spot?** My favorite travel spot would have to be Acapulco, Mexico because I love the beach.

**If you were stuck on an island, what three things would you bring?** Matches to start a fire, to cook, and stay warm. Phone to be able to communicate with my family and my good luck charm.



**Dylan Largent**  
**Distribution Services Supervisor, Transportation & Distribution Services**

I have worked at UCI for 6 1/2 years and I have been working in my current role as Distribution Services Supervisor for the past 3 years. Our team is responsible for UCI intercampus and United States Postal Service mail, including bulk mail and business reply mail processing for departments. We also manage UCI's palletized storage and tax-free ethyl alcohol order and delivery.

**What aspect of your job do you enjoy the most?** The communication between staff and upper management.

**What piece of advice would you give to a new employee?** Everything is opportunity to learn and grow. Too often we strive for perfection and crumble under our failures. It is important to look at our failures and celebrate those failures as a learning experience.

**After a long day at work, what do you look forward to the most?** Enjoying time with my family and enjoying my hobbies, like coaching my son, carpentry, and gardening.



**Before your time at UCI, what was your most interesting or oddest job?** My fabrication jobs at SPM Design, and Quiksilver. While working for these companies I had the pleasure of building one of a kind art pieces, window displays and tradeshow booths. One of my favorite projects was a wave made out of flowers for an installation in Pasadena.

**People would be surprised if they knew:** I have had several heart surgeries and procedures starting when I was only six years old.

**If you were to write a book about yourself, what would you name it?** The man with a heart that would never give up.

**Motto or Personal Mantra:** Enjoy learning new things and life will never become mundane.



**Vanessa Flores**  
**Deputy Emergency Manager, Emergency Management**

I have been at UCI and in my current position for 3 months. In this position, I assist the emergency manager director in developing, administering, and maintaining emergency response procedures in preparation, during, and following any emergency or disaster event impacting our campus.

**What aspect of your job do you enjoy the most?** What I enjoy most about Emergency Management is that every day is different. One day you may be working on developing preparedness training plans and the next day you may be responding to an incident in the Emergency Operations Center. Needless to say, it keeps things interesting. We also get to work with all UCI departments as well as outside agencies which provides opportunities to meet new people. Although it has only been a short 3 months, I am very impressed by how well the UCI team comes together to get the job done.

**What are 3 words to describe your department?** Three words to describe my department are teamwork, resourceful, and dependable. Having to transition from military service to higher education has been a bit challenging, but I couldn't have asked for a better team to work with. We all work very well together and share a passion for developing a world-class emergency management program for the campus.

**Favorite travel spot?** My grandparents started a tradition over 50 years ago of taking an annual camping trip. The earlier years used to be at Yosemite National Park, but as the family grew and more of the extended family joined in, the location moved to Lake Tahoe. We now have up to 70 family and friends who participate in this annual tradition and still growing! I have so many incredible memories from our camping trips there when I was growing up and now I get to create more memories with my daughter. This place will always be near and dear to my heart.

**If you were stuck on an island, what three things would you bring?** If I were stuck on an island, the three things I would bring with me would be Carmax Lip Balm, Tapatio Hot Sauce, and one of the many knives I was issued in the military. I'm addicted to the first two and the last one would be for survival.

**People would be surprised if they knew:** I've never had coffee.

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

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