

# Aggie Launch: Learning by Leading™

**CULTIVATING THE NEXT GENERATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL LEADERS**



## The Vision

At the UC Davis Arboretum and Public Garden, we believe that students learn best by leading. Through diverse opportunities to explore their potential, apply classroom knowledge, expand professional skills and gain hands-on experience, students in our Learning by Leading™ program develop the strengths that will serve them over a lifetime. Working in teams to address critical environmental issues like climate change, habitat loss, food insecurity and environmental literacy, our students ascend a ladder of leadership—from mentoring peers to leading complex projects—and experience life-changing lessons in collaboration, communication, managing change and accomplishing shared goals.

At the intersection of academic learning, community engagement and environmental stewardship, **Learning by Leading™** inspires students to cultivate the qualities that propel them into meaningful careers and position them to make a real difference in the world. Now, our internationally renowned program has joined efforts with Aggie Launch—UC Davis' Big Idea to ready every student for the world of work through customized career exploration—to continue preparing leading-edge innovators in environmental fields and beyond. With the partnership of philanthropists who share our vision of launching tomorrow's agile leaders, together we will position the next generation of Aggies to excel as global citizens and passionate ambassadors for a more equitable and sustainable world.

The **UC Davis Big Ideas** are forward-thinking, interdisciplinary programs and projects that build on university strengths to positively impact the world for generations to come.

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## A Growth Experience

In today's dynamic workplaces, strong leadership skills enable students to maximize their potential and become agents of change. Learning by Leading™ supports enterprising students as they discover how to lead transformational projects that help communities and environments thrive. Mentored by experienced staff, our students cultivate competitive career skills and the ability to inspire others to accomplish extraordinary change.

Our program serves as an influential model for universities and public gardens across the country, with eight institutions in North America currently planning or implementing Learning by Leading™ programs. At UC Davis, we offer tracks in Ecological Restoration, Sustainable Horticulture, and Environmental Education and Engagement—with multiple internships focused on topics like habitat horticulture, waterway stewardship and museum education. All of our students have meaningful leadership opportunities and the chance to make tangible impacts at UC Davis and beyond.

We believe that the best test of a leader is how they handle unexpected difficulties. The COVID-19 pandemic offered a real-world trial that has strengthened our students' crisis leadership skills—particularly resilience, creativity and commitment to shared goals. For example, our interns have collaborated to develop online resources that help people experience the healing power of nature, which is even more essential during times of physical distancing and crisis.

At this critical moment, it is more important than ever for UC Davis to prepare civic-minded students who can collaborate, innovate, adapt and lead—and bring about a more resilient, more prosperous world for us all.



## Philanthropic Opportunities

Endow Learning by Leading™ through a named fund that will support the program for generations to come

Sponsor students serving in a range of leadership roles, from team leader to apprentice

Fund signature leadership projects in which students address critical environmental issues

We invite you to join Learning by Leading™ in preparing confident, capable graduates ready to make a difference. With your philanthropic partnership, we will create a robust pipeline of motivated leaders with the knowledge, passion and experience to effect great change—in their own communities, across the nation and around the world.



For more information, please contact:

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