SUMMARY OF HIGHLIGHTS & RECOGNITIONS

VISION
Prepare the next generation of thinkers, innovators, and entrepreneurs to help the world meet its profound environmental and social justice challenges.

MISSION
Provide responsible management of resources, demonstrate leadership in sustainable business practices, and serve as a living laboratory for sustainability.

KEY AWARDS
- Only campus in nation to have been ranked among Sierra magazine’s top 10 “Coolest Schools” for 11 consecutive years; ranked first in the nation 5 times (2014, 2015, 2018, 2019, 2020).
  - “Coolest Schools” means the campus doing the most to help “cool the planet” and reduce emissions through campus efforts in energy, transportation, waste, research, etc.
- 4th campus in the world to earn AASHE STARS Platinum rating; the only UC campus to earn a Platinum rating.
  - AASHE STARS is a globally recognized sustainability rating system: Platinum is the highest rating tier available.

ACADEMICS & RESEARCH
- More than 250 UCI faculty and staff are engaged in sustainability research.
  - View the 2018 Sustainability Research Inventory.
- Over 75 percent of academic departments provide sustainability course offerings.
  - Sustainability-related courses are available in Biological Sciences, Engineering, Humanities, Physical Sciences, Social Sciences, Social Ecology, and more! Learn more here.

ENERGY
- Committed to the University of California’s goal of achieving carbon neutrality by 2025, having reduced GHG emissions by 22,000 metric tons annually.
  - Learn about UCI’s climate strategy in the Climate Action Plan.
- Recognized by the U.S. Dept. of Energy for being the first educational institution to improve energy efficiency 20 percent by 2020, exceeding this goal seven years early.
  - UCI consumed 23 percent less energy in 2013 than in 2008.

FOOD SERVICES
- Grand prize recipient in 2019 for excellence in sustainable dining from the National Association of College & University Food Service.
  - Highlights include reusable cup discounts, reusable to-go program, plant-based meals.
- Fair Trade University designation in 2018, representing commitment to sourcing Fair Trade.
  - Learn more about UCI Dining’s sustainable practices here.

GREEN BUILDING
- 32 LEED certified buildings, 21 Platinum and 11 Gold; the most LEED Platinum for New Construction in the U.S. On campus, all LEED buildings are identified by a plaque or decal at their entrances.
- Recent LEED Platinum certified buildings include Middle Earth Towers, Mesa Court Towers, Anteater Learning Pavilion, and the Continuing Education Classroom Building.
  - See complete list of LEED buildings and learn more about their features here.
LABORATORIES

• UCI’s award-winning Smart Labs initiative has reduced laboratory energy use and improved safety in new and existing laboratories by as much as 60 percent.
  ➢ Smart Labs uses sensors and software to control lab and building systems (ventilation, HVAC, exhaust, illumination) precisely rather than rely on massive safety margins for ventilation rates, exhaust airspeeds, and other design criteria.
• UCI Green Labs installed 425 flow restrictors throughout campus research laboratories, support reductions in campus potable water use. The flow restrictors reduce water flow from 2 gallons per minute (GPM) to 0.74 GPM.
  ➢ Green Labs works with principal investigators, lab managers, and students to educate and assist in the implementation of more sustainable practices in campus laboratories and achieve Green Lab certification. Learn more about the program here.

STUDENT ENGAGEMENT

• Over 150 students trained per academic year through UCI’s Sustainability Resource Center, gaining experience in sustainability leadership through campus internships and volunteer programs.
  ➢ Offers Campus as a Living Lab, EarthReps, Environmental Justice Collective, and more!
• FRESH Basic Needs Hub is a student-initiated effort that promotes equitable access to basic needs through student empowerment, community collaboration, and institutional integration.
  ➢ Students have access to weekly food pantry distribution and fresh produce program.

TRANSPORTATION

• First campus in nation to convert bio-diesel shuttle fleet to an all-electric bus fleet, providing more than 2 million student rides per year. UCI now has 20 all-electric shuttles. See shuttle routes and stop locations here.
  ➢ This was an incredible student-led effort, with students voting to decommission gas-powered shuttles and replace with an all-electric fleet.
• Platinum-level Bicycle Friendly University designation from the League of American Bicyclists. UCI provides bicycle education programs and classes through BikeUCI.

OPEN SPACE

• Since 2010, UCI has been designated as a Tree Campus USA through the Arbor Day Foundation, recognized for efforts in establishing and sustaining an urban tree canopy.
  ➢ The campus is designed to encourage open space access, providing opportunity for research, teaching, community engagement, and respite. View the UCI Self-Guided Sustainability Tour.
    ➢ Aldrich Park – 16 acre central park; the “heart” of campus
    ➢ Ecological Preserve – 60 acres located on the West Campus; commonly used for research projects and class instruction
    ➢ San Joaquin Marsh Reserve – 202 acres of coastal freshwater marshes on the North Campus; serves as a natural laboratory across campus disciplines

WASTE

• 80 percent campus waste diversion rate, the highest in the UC system.
  ➢ This means the campus diverts 80 percent of all its waste from landfill to recycling and composting facilities! Click here to learn more about campus recycling.
• Four campus buildings are certified as zero waste facilities, meaning these buildings achieve an overall diversion rate of at least 90 percent.
  ➢ Zero waste facilities include Pippin, Phoenix Grill, The Anteatery, and the ARC

WATER

• In 2018, the central plant was retrofitted to use treated recycled water, saving approximately 80 million gallons of potable water (water considered safe to drink).
  ➢ Read about the central plant recycled water project here.
• 90 percent of campus landscaping uses recycled water, highly treated wastewater from showers, toilets, sinks, dishwashers, etc.