

# Diversity in Graduate Studies

**A WORLD-CLASS EDUCATION FOR EVERY STUDENT**

Rachael Nez is completing a Ph.D. in Native American Studies in spite of many challenges. Born and raised on Navajo Nation lands, Nez grew up in a place where “there are few roads, a lack of access to clean water and electricity, and where unemployment, health disparities and dropout rates are the highest in the U.S.” Education was her outlet, says Nez: “Through mentors, teachers and books, I was introduced to different communities, ideas and places.”

Nez embraced higher education as a tool for teaching, building community and giving back. Her research on singing, storytelling and performance is helping Native communities keep their languages alive. Indigenous languages hold hundreds of years of knowledge, says Nez, and carry the histories of how to live in relationship to each other and to the earth.

Graduate education plays a key role in increasing opportunity, but not every student’s path to higher education is equal. The rising costs of college and graduate school amplify socioeconomic inequalities, and students from marginalized backgrounds may find that the education they deserve remains out of reach.

No circumstance, situation or background should stand in the way of promising students achieving their dreams—and Graduate Studies has a vision to widen access to a world-class graduate education.



## UC Davis: Removing Barriers to Higher Education

**#1**

nationally for biological and biomedical Ph.D.s earned by underrepresented minorities

**#3**

in the nation among top colleges doing the most for low-income students

**410+**

faculty who identify as first-generation graduates

## Diversity in Graduate Studies: A World-class Education for Every Student

### An Invitation

Your support makes a critical difference in our mission to broaden the paths to opportunity and success for every graduate student. We invite you to make a gift that will foster an inclusive, diverse community of scholars.

### Philanthropic Opportunities

Graduate Studies has designed a variety of programs and outreach initiatives that remove barriers to graduate education.

If you are interested in additional ways to help expand access to graduate education, please contact us to discuss how we might help realize your vision.

- Fund McNair Scholars Program stipends to connect students with financial resources, academic support and professional networks
- Endow Guardian Professions Program fellowships to connect former foster youth with the education they deserve
- Fund UC LEADS stipends for promising STEM students
- Fund Envision UC Davis participants' travel, accommodation and application fees

