

UCDAVIS

Translating Research Into Innovative Strategies

UC Davis Institute of the Environment

The Fire, Climate Change, Ecosystem and Community Resilience Initiative

Climate change causes extreme weather patterns, and in California, this means we have hotter and drier conditions that make us vulnerable to destructive events like wildfires and drought. As wildfire seasons expand over a greater part of the year and produce more intense fires, we are seeing the impacts of these destructive fires reach further across our state—with smoke spanning hundreds of miles, and reducing air and water quality to levels that lead to health issues, crop losses and more.



UC Davis' Institute of the Environment is leading a multidisciplinary initiative to examine how climate change is impacting the relationship between fire weather and fire behavior—and the

ripple effects on forest ecosystems, land management and rural communities. With research focused on better understanding fire behavior and how forests may or may not be positioned for resilience, we can develop strategies to help protect natural resources.

Collecting this research and making these critical assessments also helps us prepare vulnerable communities for the inevitable effects of climate



change. This research will go on to advise policies at local and state levels, strengthen fire workforce development and trainings, and inform sustainable land-use planning and management.

Together, with visionary philanthropists, we will conduct cutting-edge research that helps protect forest ecosystems and communities against the devastating impacts of wildfires.

UC Davis Institute of the Environment

A Diverse, Climate-Smart Workforce

In addition to groundbreaking research, we are also committed to educating the public about best practices in fire prevention and environmental stewardship. We are developing educational summits with the Foundation for California Community Colleges to inform a climate-smart workforce focused on sustainable forest and fire management. These summits aim to protect the most vulnerable communities-those in rural areas and those who disproportionately experience the impacts of environmental issues and climate change.

Workforce development plays an important role in putting diversity, equity and inclusion principles into action. By partnering with organizations to train students who come from communities most at risk of fire damage, we are able to share best practices with groups who may live in remote, underdeveloped areas. When students who participate in this initiative return to their communities, they will have a better understanding of which strategies will work best for their area and they will have their community's trust to effectively implement new practices.

Philanthropic Opportunities

As we look toward the future of climate change solutions, we invite visionary philanthropists to strengthen our capacity for impact. Support for groundbreaking research and student internships that train future leaders will play a key role in elevating the Fire Resilience Initiative to new heights.

- Fund research that will translate to innovative solutions for resilient communities GOAL: \$250,000
- Fund immersive student internships that foster collaboration between students and rural communities GOAL: \$250,000



Philanthropic support will provide students with critical trainings to become agents of change within their communities.



To learn more about supporting the Institute of the Environment, please contact:

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