

College of Arts and Sciences

Engaging the Heart, Mind and Spirit

Leading
Change™
THE CAMPAIGN FOR USD

Centers, Programs and Institutes: \$11 million

Background

The College of Arts and Sciences is seeking \$11 million to establish new **centers, programs and institutes**. The College has a range of existing centers, institutes and programs that explore topics such as women and gender, Latin America, Asia and interdisciplinary humanities. Their common objective is to bring complex issues into real-world context for students and move beyond the traditional disciplinary lines to explore a topic or issue from all angles.

As an example, the Rigsby Language and Culture Commons in the Department of Languages and Literatures provides a space to educate globally competent and socially aware students. Instead of focusing on a single language, students learn what it really means to be French, Spanish or Chinese, among other cultures, in a society that is global and ever changing.

Students must understand the complex challenges facing the world today. As a result, the College of Arts and Sciences seeks to create new centers that span majors, regions and borders to educate and inspire students to become Changemakers.

Objective

The College of Arts and Sciences is committed to establishing academic centers, programs and institutes that promote deeper mutual understanding and are comprised of the following elements:

- **Education:** Establish new curriculum and courses and appoint a current faculty member as director.
- **Research:** Host lectures, seminars, and research projects on a range of complex topics.

- **Outreach:** Organize collaborative projects between academic disciplines to build connections between teaching and research, as well as students and faculty. Invite new scholars to campus as guest lecturers, endowed chairs and distinguished professors.

The College of Arts and Sciences seeks to establish five named centers, programs, or institutes — each with a director, scholarship support for students, research grants for faculty, and other critical resources for success.

While there is a need for a number of diverse centers, programs and institutes throughout the college, the following represents a very brief list that will elevate the reputation of USD.

Center for Asian Studies: The Center for Asian Studies will build upon the strong foundation of the Asian Studies Program to create a nationally recognized center for the academic study of Asia. A distinctive emphasis will be placed on fostering a global studies approach to the study of Asia, which recognizes the complex connection of politics, economics, culture and society, both across the region and globally.

The center will cultivate scholarly exchanges with Asia-based institutions, researchers, and students. Additionally, the center will support the university's efforts of internationalization by promoting awareness, understanding and engagement of Asia in the context of global studies, as well as reach out to and engage the wider San Diego community with Asia-related programs and events, such as an annual Asian Film Festival.

Center for Bioanalytics: The four science departments in the college — biology, chemistry and biochemistry, environmental and ocean sciences, and physics — seek to establish a Center for Bioanalytics to advance

interdisciplinary research, student training and to collaborate with other departments and the Shiley-Marcos School of Engineering. With advanced technologies in chromatography and mass spectrometry, the goal of the center is to bolster the academic research of faculty and expand research opportunities for undergraduate students.

Specific areas of development may include atmospheric chemistry, enhancement of the biochemistry major through classes in biophysical chemistry, improved study of proteins, protein-protein interactions, polymer chemistry, and development of student research and teaching opportunities in proteomics.

Institute for Coastal Environmental Studies: The Institute for Coastal Environmental Studies will be a research hub for benchmarking water quality and ecosystem impacts. It will be a living laboratory for students working closely with faculty members to participate in field research. Research will provide the foundation for policy and other decisions regarding the treatment of valuable marine resources, and for educating the public and policy makers.

The goal is to bring together a team of faculty members from across disciplines to address the scientific and environmental issues of impacted wetland areas in San Diego and across the border in Baja California. The college seeks to expand and enhance field and lab experiments to foster deeper interdisciplinary connections and further integrate student research into the core curriculum. Possible research topics include:

environmental ethics, policy, culture, economics, resource management and conservation.

Math Learning Center: The college seeks an endowment to renovate and name the Mathematics Learning Center (MLC). The MLC provides tutoring support for students across campus. With limited space, increased student need and lack of financial resources, the current center is unable to meet the needs of all students. Additionally, it is not on par with nationwide standards for math centers.

Impact

The establishment of innovative and interdisciplinary centers in the College of Arts and Sciences will attract new talent to USD — students and faculty alike — and provide a richer understanding of complex and emerging fields.

With new centers, programs and institutes the college will unite faculty members under common themes to deeply explore global dynamics and further USD's vision of "educating students who are globally competent, ethical leaders working and serving in our complex and changing world."

For More Information

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