

College of Arts and Sciences

Engaging the Heart, Mind and Spirit



Endowed Professors and Chairs: \$5 million

Background

The College of Arts and Sciences is seeking \$5 million to establish **endowed professors and chairs**. The greatest institutions have the best minds, the most-creative researchers, and the most-engaged professors. The establishment of endowed professorships within every discipline in the College of Arts and Sciences would attract exceptional talent to USD, thereby attracting the best and brightest students.

The College of Arts and Sciences is proud of its existing endowed professorships because they elevate the stature of each respective department, as well as the professor who holds that title. Richard Seer, who holds the Craig Noel Distinguished Professorship in Graduate Theatre, is a renowned contributor to the national theatre community. His work with USD's Master of Fine Arts Program program has enhanced USD's reputation as one of the top programs of professional actors in the nation. Curtis Loer, PhD, is a nationally renowned scientist who has served as the Fletcher Jones Chair since 1997. Loer's research focuses on cell-molecular biology and its function on the nervous system, and his dedication to his students, his research and USD are beyond compare.

Compared to peer and aspirational universities, USD has far fewer of these prominent positions than other institutions. For example, Santa Clara University has 48 endowed chairs or professors — 17 of which are housed in its College of Arts and Sciences. The University of Southern California has 44 endowed positions in Dornsife College of Arts, Letters and Sciences alone. Currently, USD's College of Arts and Sciences has just three endowed professorships in biology, mathematics and graduate theatre.

Objective

Endowed or Distinguished Professor: The purpose of an endowed professorship is to recruit a new faculty

member, or recognize a current faculty member in the College of Arts and Sciences for exceptional teaching, renowned research and publications, and active engagement with students. The recipient of an endowed professorship receives this honor because of his or her dedication to students, a commitment to teaching excellence, and exemplary service to his or her field of study.

Endowed Chair: The purpose of an endowed chair is to attract a renowned teacher, scholar and mentor in a particular field, or honor and recognize a current faculty member in the College of Arts and Sciences for being an exceptional teacher, scholar and mentor. The title of endowed chair is the highest level of distinction awarded on a college campus and is reserved only for very select faculty members who have achieved the highest levels of teaching excellence, exemplary service, and transformative scholarly work over the course of their brilliant careers. Usually, recipients of an endowed chair have earned national and international honors for their work.

While the College of Arts and Sciences seeks to attract and retain the best teachers, scholars and mentors in every discipline, the college is actively seeking endowed professorships in the following areas:

- Endowed Professor in Water Resources
- Endowed Professor in Creative Writing
- Endowed Professor of Environmental Policy
- Endowed Professor in Middle East (Arabic) Politics and Policy
- Endowed Professor in Architecture
- Endowed Professor in Asian American Studies
- Endowed Professor in Chinese
- Endowed Professor in Germanic Studies
- Endowed Professor in Latin American Studies
- Endowed Professor in African-American Studies
- Endowed Professor in Catholic Theology

- Endowed Professor in Health Communication
- Endowed Professor in Biomedical Ethics
- Endowed Professor in Digital Humanities

Impact

Preparing today's students for their future roles in society requires faculty members to be renowned scholars, exceptional teachers, and actively engaged with their students. For many universities, recruiting and retaining these accomplished, published individuals has become increasingly challenging and very competitive.

As a faculty-recruiting tool, endowed professorships represent stability as well as stature. An increase in the number of endowed professorships would greatly help the College of Arts and Sciences cultivate a more expansive faculty of teachers, scholars and mentors, and increase the university's standards of academic excellence. Equally important to the recipients, endowed professorships represent the pinnacle achievement of

their academic careers, and those individuals who hold such appointments are considered leaders and mentors.

Endowed professorships are integral to the college's goals and long-term success because they provide a permanent and annual source of funding for the professor's teaching, create opportunities for international collaboration, support scholarly activities, and provide research stipends for undergraduate students. When establishing an endowed professorship in the College of Arts and Sciences, the name of the donor (or family) exists in perpetuity, and the professor who holds the position pays tribute to the vision, passion, and legacy of the donor.

For More Information

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