

African American Network Newsletter



Sacramento Area Youth Speaks (SAYS) poet-mentor educator Ronnee LaRae provides professional development at a middle school in Sacramento. UC Davis partners with SAYS to provide literacy and college readiness outreach.



Greetings community partner!

We are excited to launch the first quarterly newsletter highlighting UC Davis' support for African American students and communities.

In our inaugural issue, we are particularly proud to announce a new **African American Initiative** at UC Davis. The initiative will enhance outreach, recruitment and retention efforts for African and African American students. As part of this effort, we are establishing a network among community and faith-based organizations that provide academic preparation services to African American youth. Chancellor Linda P.B. Katehi and Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs and Campus Diversity Adela de la Torre join us in supporting this initiative.

We are also ecstatic to share that a new UC Davis **Center for African Diaspora Student Success** will be opening this fall. Kayton Carter, director of Strategic African American Retention Initiatives, will oversee the center. We welcome you to be part of the movement to see even more African American students succeed at our top-ranked university!

Walter Robinson
Associate Vice Chancellor for Enrollment Management
UC Davis Student Affairs

Milton Lang, Ed.D.
Associate Vice Chancellor for Student Life,
Campus Community and Retention Services
UC Davis Student Affairs



Meet Mariah Watson

Mariah Watson is the first African American female to be student body president at UC Davis. Overseeing a \$13 million budget, she credits our Black Leadership Retreat with getting her started as a leader on campus. From Los Angeles, Mariah says that UC Davis feels like home. She is an international relations and philosophy major and proudly holds a 3.9 GPA.



9th in the U.S. for granting degrees to students of color

— *Diverse: Issues in Higher Education* 2013–14



Hello from Kayton Carter



My passion is to provide comprehensive support services to underrepresented college students who need them, and I am thrilled to be UC Davis' **Director of Strategic African American Retention Initiatives**.

The new Center for African Diaspora Student Success will bring students, faculty and staff together to engage in all aspects of campus life. We will inspire students to develop as leaders, succeed academically and become change agents in the world.

Prior to coming to UC Davis, I was the Oakland site director for the College Track college-prep program, and I'm looking forward to helping the high school and community college students that you serve find success at UC Davis.



Read *The Black Pages*

The Black Pages is our annual guide to UC Davis and community resources for African American and African students. [Check out the 2015 edition.](#)



Important Dates

Oct. 16–18. Black Leadership Retreat

Late Oct. Center for African Diaspora Student Success opening

UC Davis Faculty Spotlight



Dr. Milmon Harrison, a UC Davis graduate, has been teaching here since 1998. As director of the African American and African Studies program, he enjoys connecting with students.

The UC Davis [African American and African Studies program](#) expands social awareness of the history and culture of African descent peoples. The program also supports the academic and social needs of African American students and brings together the black community on campus.

Dr. Harrison teaches regularly on African American culture and has written a book, *Righteous Fiches: the Word of Faith Movement in Contemporary African American Religion*. [Read his blog](#) to learn more, and see his [reading suggestions](#) for books about the African American experience.

Financial Aid Resources

[General Scholarships](#)

[Multicultural Scholarships](#)

[Financial Literacy](#)

[Net Price Calculator](#)



Campus Community Book Project



This summer, the [Special Transitional Enrichment Program \(STEP\)](#) invited more than 220 first-year students to UC Davis for four weeks of orientation and preparation.

STEP students discussed the [Campus Community Book Project](#) title, *The Divide: American Injustice in the Age of the Wealth Gap*.

"The book helped my friends and I consider different points of view and reaffirmed the importance of a college education," said Jordan Keys, a freshman biochemistry and molecular biology major.

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