

August 12, 2013

JUAN POBLETE
Provost, Kresge College

ALICE YANG
Provost, Stevenson College

ELIZABETH ABRAMS
Provost, Merrill College

Dear Juan, Alice, and Elizabeth,

Re: UCSC Challenge Program

Thank you for the development of a well-considered proposal for the UCSC Challenge Program in the colleges.

The proposal will create a challenge opportunity that includes application by first-year students during the Winter quarter, commences with a seminar in the first spring, and continues with research mentorship and proposal in the second year. The challenge bridges the first year to the second year, a key transition point for retention, major declaration, and graduation as discussed in the [Undergraduate Student Success Team Final Report](#).

While there are still a few details we will need to work out, I am pleased to be able to commit funding as follows:

- Spring Quarter Seminars (first year). Spring 2014, I will fund the Kresge and the Stevenson seminars, and one half of the Merrill seminar. Spring 2015, I will fund the Kresge seminar and one half of seminars in other colleges. For Spring 2016, I will fund half of seminars in participating colleges, with a likelihood of continuing at this level of commitment and collaboration.
- Fall Quarter Speaker Colloquium Course (second year). I understand that Kresge, Merrill, and Stevenson will provide the funding necessary for this portion of the program and that the speaker funding is intended to support faculty work with students during Fall and Winter in the seminar and as a project mentor. This is appropriate, but will need to be discussed further and implemented properly to ensure that funding is not provided simply for the 1-hour seminar. The amount of funding provided should be discussed among the Council of Provosts.
- Research project funding (second year). The distribution of funding between the project and mentor will need further discussion with me and with the Council of Provosts. Assuming we resolve this detail, I will commit \$6000 toward the first set of challenge projects based on the Winter 2015 proposals. In the second year, I will provide half of this funding. Over time, I would expect all project funding to come from donor or endowment funds.

As the details of the program develop I will be happy to consider additional funding requests. For example, I would be inclined to fund expenses for an end-of-second-year poster session, forum, or other event at which the teams across participating colleges could present their work. As I have mentioned before, I encourage the participation of additional colleges in this pilot year or in future years.

I will provide the proposal and any revisions to the Committee on Education Policy (CEP) in the second week of September so that CEP may agendaize discussion of the pilot. CEP's support will be important to the success of the pilot.

I appreciate your work among each other and with me to finalize the structure of this program. It is my sincere hope that this program can be part of the foundation of a collection of UCSC Scholars Opportunities for our students.

Sincerely yours,



Richard Hughey
Vice Provost and Dean
of Undergraduate Education

cc: College Provosts