



Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs and Campus Diversity Adela de la Torre (left) and Kayton Carter, director for Strategic African American Retention Initiatives

#### A data-driven, hands-on approach to diversity, recruitment and retention

In fall 2015, UC Davis Chancellor Linda P.B. Katehi designated Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs Adela de la Torre to oversee campus diversity for both the Sacramento and Davis campuses.

Vice Chancellor de la Torre has long championed strategic diversity initiatives as part of her work in student affairs. Most recently she has been instrumental in getting the new [Center for African American Diaspora Student Success](#) (CADSS) off and running under the direction of Kayton Carter, director for Strategic African American Retention Initiatives.

Carter believes CADSS will be a recruitment and retention game-changer for UC Davis because services are comprehensive, including strategic recruitment from local high schools and community colleges, support from day of acceptance and early academic intervention.

"CADSS will connect African American students to the many campus resources for mentoring and support," says Carter. "My sole objective is to see every student walk across the commencement stage as a graduate of our campus."

A check-in system that tracks how students are using on-campus resources is providing data that de la Torre says aids the campus in assessing how to more effectively support underrepresented students.

"We want our students to have equal opportunity to graduate at the same rate," says de la Torre. "Success will mean these students are going to be able to reach all the dreams they have."



#### Connecting students with resources on campus and beyond: Ken Barnes

Ken Barnes is the new [Internship and Career Center's](#) liaison for the [Center for African Diaspora Student Success](#). As a former UC Davis student himself, Barnes is familiar with the situation facing the students he will be assisting.

"We are seeking out students, letting them know they can be connected to resources. For instance, when I was a student here, I didn't apply for the [Washington Program](#). I thought going to DC for a quarter was not for me because I didn't see a lot of black faces in politics," says Barnes.

Barnes asks students what changes they want to see in the world and informs them of their many opportunities at UC Davis.

"I let them know, once they are in those opportunities, they can make those changes," says Barnes.

He sees his new role as ensuring underrepresented students are connected to the right resources while they are here, including internships, and prepared for the transition off campus as well. He believes UC Davis is exactly the kind of place where all students can succeed.



Kamael Thomas, an international relations and economics double major, interned with the Homeland Security Advisory Council through the UC Davis [Washington Program](#).

#### Opening doors to UC Davis: Emily Galindo

Associate Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs and Executive Director for Student Housing Emily Galindo says success really comes down to knowing your resources.

"The wonderful thing about being on campus for over three decades is I know the resources.

When I'm presented with a problem, I can chart a path that will get the result needed as quickly as possible," says Galindo.

"The priority for housing is building community. "You are my neighbor: How am I going to get along with my neighbor? How am I going to appreciate the history they might have? What does it mean to build community?"

As a priority for Galindo is teaching young students who are on their own for the first time how to navigate their way and connect to the support they may need now or in the future.

"This campus is a welcoming place, and we are here to support our students," says Galindo.

#### On-campus community helps with transition

Campbell 2 is an on-campus [living-learning community](#) focused on the African diaspora culture and community. Located in the Tercero residence hall area, it is a great way for first-year students of all backgrounds to explore the African diaspora, whether they identify directly with that community, or have interest in exploring something new to them.

Marguerite Phillips, assistant director in Student Housing says, "I've observed that living in the African and African American living-learning community is helpful in particular to first-year students as they transition to UC Davis. If a student hasn't grown up around people who don't identify as they do, it can feel easier to be around people who look like you as they adjust to a large research university."

Phillips emphasizes that the Campbell 2 community is open to all students. "Many students think the community is open exclusively to students who identify as African American or African," she says, "but anyone who wants to further their knowledge about and become advocates for the African diaspora community is welcome."



#### Meet Dominique Gebru

UC Davis alumna Dominique Gebru, '12, is a Peace Corps volunteer, serving a small, rural primary school in Trelawny Parish, Jamaica, as the youth literacy adviser.

The Peace Corps recently selected Gebru's blog, [Iax2 Years Fun Di Back](#), as a top blog in its annual Blog It Home contest.



**The Peace Corps ranked UC Davis No. 14 in its 2016 Top Volunteer-Producing Colleges and Universities**

#### SAYS Summit 2016

The eighth annual [Sacramento Area Youth Speaks \(SAYS\) Summit Callisto Day](#) is Friday, May 20, 8 a.m.–8 p.m., at the UC Davis ARC Pavilion.

SAYS empowers students to become authors of their own lives, and leaders in their schools and communities, through spoken-word performance poetry.



#### Important Dates

**April 2** [Decision UC Davis - Freshman](#)

**April 16** [UC Davis Picnic Day](#)

**Late April** Transfer admission decisions released

**April 20** Spring Internship and Career Fair [Attend as an employer or internship provider](#)

**May 13** [Decision UC Davis - Transfer](#)

**May 14–June 12** [UC Davis commencement ceremonies](#)

**May 21** [Black Family Day](#)

**June 12** [Black Graduation Celebration](#)



#### Black Family Day

On May 21, UC Davis celebrates its 45th [Black Family Day](#), a student-coordinated event that honors black empowerment and the resilience, diversity and openness of black culture.

Bring your family to enjoy the day's activities, which include speakers, entertainers, food and merchandise vendors and a children's fair.

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