

WITH U • FOR U

DFA Employee Newsletter



A message from
Chief Financial Officer and
Vice Chancellor Ronald S. Cortez

**Managers/Supervisors: Please share this email with DFA campus temporary and contract employees. For those who do not have regular access to emails/laptops/PCs, please print and share this email accordingly.*

Dear DFA employees,

Thank you to those of you who were able to attend January's town hall—it's always uplifting to see everyone and I am glad we are continuing these quarterly meetings in a virtual environment. In the spirit of continuous improvement, please take a few minutes to complete a [short survey](#) evaluating the event.

As stated in my update, DFA continues to put forth a tremendous amount of work to advance UCI's brilliant future. Whether it's supporting COVID-19 testing and vaccination efforts, providing day-to-day support to our constituents, or working on the newly approved [UCI Medical Center Irvine-Newport](#) hospital complex—we have a lot to be proud of. Thank you so much for all of your hard work!

We revealed an updated [DFA website](#) at the town hall—remember to bookmark the [DFA Employees](#) tab so you can quickly access resources that support professional development and wellness or review our newly created [DFA brand guidelines](#) housed on SharePoint. You can also [locate instructions to update your email signature](#). As a reminder, Shaina and Abbey will meet with each department to review brand guidelines in more depth by the end of April.

We also announced an update to [DFA's strategy map](#) – our balanced scorecard – to include **diversity & inclusion** under our values and as a pillar in the **Learning & Growth** perspective. A DFA workgroup has been established with a mission to promote a culture of diversity and inclusion across our division. An informational webpage is under development that will provide additional information outlining our goals and objectives.

Congratulations to our most [recent cohort of award recipients](#) under our Employee Recognition Program.

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DFA Events

January 20 - May 12:
[DFA Women's Lean In Network Series](#)

January 25 - March 5:
[UCI New Year, New You Challenge](#)

February 4 (1-2:30.m.):
[UCI Virtual Town Hall](#)

[LSS White Belt Trainings](#)

[DocuSign Trainings](#)



Thank you to Eric Hoang for presenting on EH&S Environmental Programs. As a reminder, please email WithUForU@uci.edu if you are interested in presenting at a future town hall.



Lastly, congratulations to our three raffle winners: Laura Zerda, Jeanne Doig, and Adam Feuerstein.

As always, feel free to share your comments and suggestions by sending an email to WithUForU@uci.edu.

With appreciation,

Ronald S. Cortez, JD, MA
Chief Financial Officer
Vice Chancellor, Division of Finance and Administration

[DFA Balanced Scorecard Strategy](#)

*The Division of Finance and Administration (DFA) serves all UCI students, faculty, staff, and visitors. We are **With U • For U**—working alongside you, in support of you—as planning partners, problem solvers, and solution providers who maintain a safe and attractive physical environment and offer professional services and support.*



Learning & Growth: Learning in 2021

What are your professional development goals for the new year? Curious to learn more about your strengths, skills, and opportunities? Check out [My UC Career](#).

Resources for women professional development are available on [our website](#), which also provides an easy access point to [DFA's Lean In Network SharePoint site](#). Check out our new monthly [DFA Lean In sessions scheduled through May 2021](#).

Article provided by Office of the CFO and Vice Chancellor



UCIPD 2020 Awards & Commendations

Excellence in Leadership Awarded to Assistant Chief (AC) Cooper

Assistant Chief Paul Cooper received the recognition award for innovation for [UCI's Staff Assembly 2020 Excellence in Leadership](#) awards.

Recipients of this award inspire employees to focus their individual talents on the goals of the organization and to contribute at the highest level. They also act as guardians of the culture, living the organization's values in exemplary fashion.

Congratulations to AC Cooper on this outstanding achievement—he is an example for all and has demonstrated excellent leadership to UCIPD.

Waymakers Commendation to Officer Laura Lopez

On June 13th, Officer Laura Lopez responded to a sexual assault call and brought the victim to Safe Place for a forensic exam. According to the Forensic Nurse Specialist who responded to the case, Officer Lopez provided excellent service to the victim. Before being transported to Safe Place, the victim was unconscious at Hoag's Emergency Room. While the doctor at Hoag wanted an exam to be performed on the victim when she was unable to give consent, Officer Lopez advocated for the victim's ability to consent once she regained consciousness. Although Officer Lopez received pushback from the doctor, she was able to stand her ground and respectfully advocate for the victim.

Waymakers extend a sincere appreciation to Officer Lopez; they're proud to have such an excellent law enforcement officer working in Orange County.

Article provided by UCI Police Department



Employee Experience Center (EEC)

The [Experience Center \(EEC\)](#) offers UCI employees across the enterprise a centralized point to access the most commonly used applications, employee self-service, hundreds of knowledge based articles, and a dedicated team to answer all HR, payroll, and benefits related inquiries and issues.



Working Well™ Remotely Webinar Series 2021

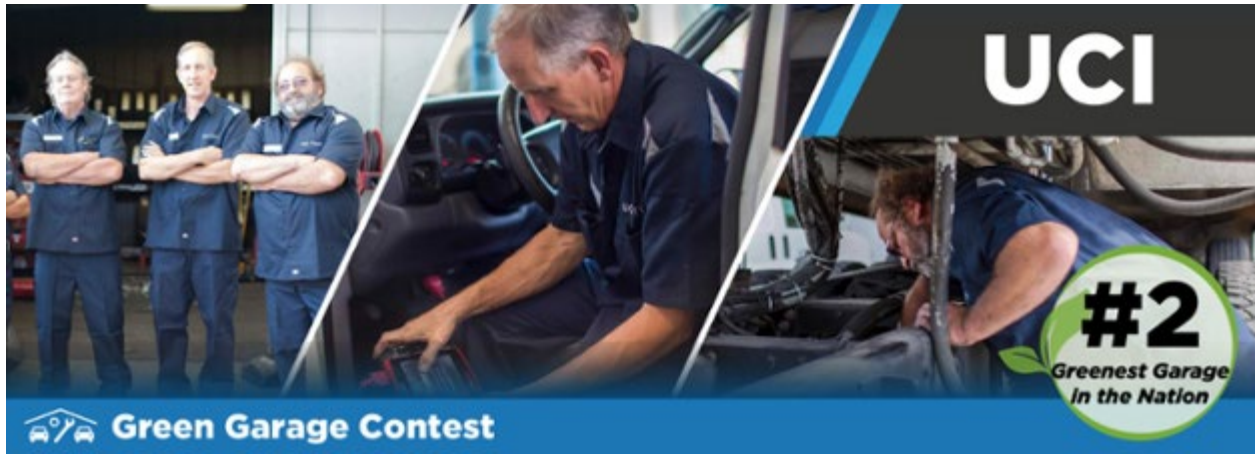
This seven-part series caters to challenges you may be facing as you telecommute, and provides guidance on how to successfully navigate through these demands. [Click here](#) for more information and a complete list of on-demand Webinars.



Clash of the Cans Wrap-Up

Through an effort that involved two separate virtual food drive campaigns, UCI Transportation donated the equivalent of 3,000 meals to the UCI FRESH Basic Needs Hub and OC Food Bank. Thank you to all who contributed their money to students and community members in need during the month of December.

Article provided by UCI Transportation & Distribution Services



UCI Recognized with Green Garage Award

Thanks to the efforts of UCI Transportation & Distribution Services (T&DS), the University of California, Irvine was recognized as having the second greenest garage in the nation.

On December 9, 2020, *The 100 Best Fleets in the Americas Organization* awarded UCI for exemplary work in implementing:

- Eco-friendly vehicle maintenance
- Green operational improvements
- Non-toxic cleaners and degreasers
- Innovative pitless vehicle lifts
- Recycled fluid collection systems

For the inaugural award, UCI was the highest-ranked university. T&DS showcased environmentally-committed fleet practices and comprehensive measures to support the "green the maintenance garage" movement while providing a roadmap for other maintenance facilities. The department will continue to build upon these achievements to further enhance our campus in the years to come.

Article provided by UCI Transportation & Distribution Services



New Year's Sustainability Resolutions

Starting a new year is the perfect time to reflect on priorities and resolve to make positive change. [Read more](#) about the goals UCI staff have set to reduce their environmental impact and consider setting your own goal.



Managing Implicit Bias Training

As part of our commitment to diversity and inclusion, we encourage all DFA employees to complete [UC's Managing Implicit Bias](#) training to increase awareness of implicit bias and reduce its impact.



DFA Employee Recognition Program

Every day is an opportunity for colleagues and managers/supervisors to recognize the great work of our people in the following categories:

- **CARE** (Customer Appreciation Repeatedly Expressed)
- **IDEA** (Innovate Discover Encourage Achieve)
- **SAFE** (Safety Award For Excellence)
- **TEAM** (Together Everyone Achieves More)

Submit your online [nomination!](#) [Click here](#) to view a list of past nominees.

EMPLOYEE PROFILES



Adelfa Rubio
Custodian, Facilities Management

I've worked and been in my current position at UCI for over 8 years, and I am responsible for general cleaning on the campus.

What has surprised you most about working in your department or UCI? I love how UCI treats me. I love how I can grow as a person here. I have my job and I have insurance for my family.

What do you like most about UCI/department? I love my schedule, I work 4:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., before my schedule was 8:30 p.m. to 5:00 a.m. Now that we were moved to day shift, I get to enjoy my family and I feel much more relaxed.

Favorite travel spot? Going to the beach—feel the breeze and the mist from the waves, be in the sun and enjoy swimming.

If you were stuck on an island, what three things would you bring? Food, clothes, and music to dance.

What is the weirdest thing you've ever eaten? Fried crickets.



Eric Hoang
Environmental Compliance Specialist, Environmental Health & Safety

I've worked and been in my current position at UCI for a little over a year now. My team and I manage the regulatory compliance for the campus.

What aspect of your job do you enjoy the most? There is no typical day in my role. Every day is a new opportunity to learn.

After a long day at work, what do you look forward to the most? Swimming and working out at the ARC!

Before your time at UCI, what was your most interesting or oddest job? I was a valet driver in high school. I got to meet interesting people and drive fun cars while working events in Los Angeles.

If you were stuck on an island, what three things would you bring? Two surfboards and a fishing rod.



Pejman Khoshkhoo
Director of DFA IT, Office of CFO and VC

I've worked at UCI for four years and been in my current position for two years. We supplement campus OIT services for DFA by providing IT business partnership and technology consulting to DFA departments. While most standard IT service requests go directly to OIT, we help DFA departments with non-standard or custom service requests that require upfront analysis or project management. We also provide management reporting on ongoing IT projects and help prioritize IT investments across DFA.

What is one accomplishment at work that you are most proud of? Why? Establishing a team of effective and successful IT professionals. Our small team was put together with people from different departments and backgrounds, but we all follow the same methodology and have repeatedly delivered successful IT projects and managed services.

What has been your favorite project at UCI/department? IT Project Portfolio Management (PPM) improvement process improvement project (ISPG) where we are refining steps for prioritizing and funding approved IT projects before they turn into emergencies.

Who is one colleague that deserves praise and recognition? Why? Venee Raduziner. She is the DFA HR business partner and has been making a great impact since day one. She's knowledgeable and resourceful and most importantly solution-oriented. Venee is a true partner and works with you diligently

to clarify the problems or concerns at hand and collaboratively guides you towards the best options. It's always a pleasure working with her no matter the topic.

Favorite travel spot? Tahoe- Nothing beats a quiet night at the fireplace in a log cabin after a hard day of skiing or snowboarding.

If Hollywood made a movie about your life, who would you like to see cast as you? Paul Giamatti.

People would be surprised if they knew: I went to high school in Germany for two years and speak German fluently.

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