

## An advocacy message from Chancellor Marye Anne Fox

Dear UC San Diego community members:

I encourage you to become a UC San Diego advocate so that you may join our friends and colleagues to support an initiative that will refocus California's resources on education and the future of our state's economy.

As part of an overall plan to reinvest in public higher education, Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger has proposed a constitutional amendment that would establish that no less than 10 percent of the state General Fund would be invested in UC and CSU (they currently receive less than 6 percent) and no more than 7 percent would be spent on prisons (which currently receive nearly 10 percent).

I believe this is a step in the right direction. I am also aware that the constitutional amendment has to first be approved by the Legislature and then California voters, and that the plan has its critics. But I agree with Patrick Lenz, UC vice president for budget, who responded to a critic by stating: "The most important element of the Governor's proposal was his challenge to California to rethink its priorities. Our plan is to work with the Governor and the Legislature to develop a viable proposal to restore higher education's place as a top priority for the state."

We have major hurdles ahead and these hurdles will take time to overcome. That is why we must continue our advocacy efforts.

Become a UC San Diego advocate by visiting <http://advocacy.ucsd.edu>. Participate in our initiative to send 10,000 emails to the Legislature in a single week. We've provided a sample email for you and it only takes about three minutes to send a message.

I have spent many hours meeting with legislative leadership, here in San Diego and in Sacramento, to discuss UC San Diego's priorities, which include improving access and affordability for students, diversifying our campus, and conveying the important role of undergraduate and graduate students at the university and in our state.

Now I need you to partner with me to ensure our voices are heard; 10,000 voices are much louder than one. We need to work together to make sure action is taken to reinvest in public higher education.

Thank you for your continued support.

With warm regards,

Marye Anne