OUR PLANET NEEDS EVERYONE’S IMAGINATION

Environmental concerns touch everyone’s lives. We all witness escalating devastation: droughts, floods, wildfires, pollution and extreme storms. The public costs are enormous and the most vulnerable—the poor, minorities, the young, the elderly and women—are most severely affected.

In the U.S., only a limited set of perspectives has a seat at the table, and leadership across all sectors lacks environmental literacy. Environmental science is 90% white and 70% male. This lack of diversity forms a serious crisis in social justice. It leads to bias and narrow thinking. It stifles creativity and innovation.

At UCLA, the #1 public university in the United States, we launched the first center for diversity in environmental science. Transformation starts on campus and reaches out to communities, K-12 schools and families.

MISSION STATEMENT

Our mission is to recruit talented students, researchers, and faculty from underserved groups into environmental science and support them, so they are empowered as agents of change. At a time when some question the importance of green science, social justice, and higher education, the Center provides a path forward.

LEGACY OF SUCCESS

Our approach to scientific discovery, community engagement and minority career development were recognized by President Barack Obama in January 2017. With funding from the National Science Foundation and others, we supported more than 50 high school, undergraduate, graduate, postdoctoral and community fellows. Many are first-generation, low-income, female, people of color, DREAMers, indigenous, or otherwise disadvantaged students.

At every educational stage, our students have a 100% graduation rate. Our alumni solve problems and transform government, business, NGOs, communities and academia.

Science is for everyone. We focus on people and communities to improve environmental science.

CORE PROGRAMS

To meet our goals, we engage students and adults at all stages, from “K to gray.”

- Fellowships are paths to leadership. Fellows receive financial support to focus on research, mentorship and outreach.
- Training in environmental science, social science, arts, and the humanities creates active citizens and creative thinkers. We help fellows develop skills and find their voices to communicate on their own terms.
- Community outreach brings science, informed policy and sustainable personal decision-making to classmates, families, friends, neighbors and strangers.
- Groundbreaking research allows fellows to solve environmental problems in teams. Cohorts of diverse fellows at various training and career stages work together and gain hands-on experience.

For more information about our programs, please contact Center Director Aradhna Tripati at atripati@g.ucla.edu.

LEADERSHIP TEAM

- Director: Aradhna Tripati, Institute of the Environment and Sustainability, Department of Earth, Planetary, and Space Sciences, Department of Atmospheric and Oceanic Sciences, Associate Professor
- Advisor: Sylvia Hurtado, Higher Education Research Institute, Director
- Advisor: Shanna Shaked, Center for Innovation and Learning in the Sciences, Senior Associate Director for Physical Sciences Initiatives
- Advisor: Roger Wakimoto, Vice Chancellor for Research

ioes.ucla.edu/diversity