UC San Diego CREATE is an equity-focused, community-facing research-practice-partnership center committed to supporting equitable educational opportunities for San Diego's students, K-12 and beyond (K-20).

Together, we are laser focused on increasing opportunity for low-income, first-generation students underrepresented in college. Through efforts to support more local youth to prepare for success at universities like ours, we help strengthen the college-going foundation for all across our region—and hone insights improving education overall. We do this by:

- Supporting K-12 students and their teachers, families, schools, districts, and community organizations in the San Diego and Imperial Valley regions, while also supporting community college students and UC San Diego student success
- Helping UC San Diego faculty and students to design and execute funded programming to help meet key local K-12 education needs
- Researching and evaluating K-12 and K-20 education efforts so they

CREATE suborganizations and staff execute and support hundreds of projects annually. This Annual Report highlights just a tiny sample of the year’s efforts. Check out create.ucsd.edu for the full range of what we do. Follow our blog and join our newsletter for more ongoing reporting.
LISTEN LAB: The Amazing Race

The LISTEN LAB had a blast hosting students from five different high schools at UC San Diego at the Amazing Race event! As a part of their ongoing mission to engage high school youth in Youth Participatory Action Research (YPAR) to improve school climate and student engagement, we’re delighted to report an amazing race experience for these up and coming researchers!

2024 Eclipse Aerial Drone Competition

The 2024 Eclipse Aerial Drone Competition, hosted by UC San Diego CREATE, is made possible via close partnerships with organizations like Robotics Education & Competition (REC) and local community partners. The community schools participating include: Logan Memorial Education Campus (LMEC), Millennial Tech Middle School (MTM), Sherman Elementary, Nativity Prep, Southwest Middle School, Mountain Empire schools, and Kipp Adelante.

Early Academic Outreach Program & TRIO Outreach Programs

This year, EAOP Imperial Valley served a total of 4,481 students. The majority (~80 %) are first-generation and socioeconomically disadvantaged.

EAOP San Diego served a total of 1,859 students.

TRIO served 912 students so far in AY 2023-24. The majority (~94 %) self-identify as first-generation and/or low income per federal guidelines.
The MathFest San Diego event is designed to engage middle school students in a friendly competition & interactive experience that will encourage collaboration & problem solving. This event was available to any middle school student in the San Diego County area.

This event is crucial to fostering a positive attitude towards mathematics, which in turn potentially increases student awareness and interest in pursuing a post-secondary education (including, but not limited to: UC San Diego, San Diego community colleges, etc.)

148 attendees (students, parents, volunteers, and UCSD CREATE staff) participated in this event.
#USvsHate

It was a great year for #USvsHate, CREATE’s anti-hate messaging project. By amplifying “anti-hate” youth voices in schools and publicly, we seek to empower students to build schools and a society where all belong, feel included, and get supported.

This year in #USvsHate, we enjoyed submissions from student and teacher participants from across the country. Combined, over 1000 students participated in lessons and messaging in our classic contests, #LetUsLearn Special Call, and voted on messages by their peers!

We appreciated commentary on #USvsHate participation on our voting form. Students from the San Diego area shared, for example, that “I've seen kids being nicer to each other”; “I have seen many positive changes in my community”; “positive, kind words being spread”; “I have personally felt more included and inspired by the artwork from the USvsHate that I've seen”; and “I've seen positive changes because of less bullying.”

Interested in reading more about #USvsHate’s work? Check out this blog post!
Housed under CREATE, the Career Pathways Program (CPP) is a FREE industry-specific career advising program administered through our Early Academic Outreach Program (EAOP). This online and in-person program targets current EAOP cohort high schools throughout San Diego and Imperial Valley Counties. The Career Pathways Program’s goal is to prepare students for a diverse and inclusive workforce of the future through early exposure, knowledge attainment, and enrichment activities that will develop the knowledge, skills, and abilities required for their particular career path.

**Engaging Curriculum Formats**
- Webinars
- Group Advising
- Individual Advising
- Asynchronous Activities
- Program Discord Channel
- In-person Events at UC San Diego

**Current Program Industry Areas**
- Engineering
- Computing
- Business
- General Career Advising

**Upcoming Program Industry Areas**
- Education
- Health

Visit [createcpp.com](http://createcpp.com)
2024 Summer Math Academies

The UC San Diego Mathematics Project, in conjunction with Math for America San Diego, is beginning their Summer Math Academies for 2024. This work is funded by a federal earmark allocation championed by CA Senator Alex Padilla and Congressman Juan Vargas.

- The project will host 5 Summer Math Academies in strategic locations for traditionally underserved student populations.
- We have 2 UC San Diego Math Project leaders and 9 teacher leaders from around San Diego county leading these efforts, with 28 teacher participants, and approximately 100 students.

The goals of the Summer Math Academies are to:
1. Improve mathematics instruction in schools teaching a high percentage of underserved students in STEM.
2. Simultaneously improve underserved students' knowledge of, and disposition toward, mathematics.

SDAWP Advanced Institute: Generation to Generation

As a way to celebrate the National Writing Project’s 50th anniversary SDAWP leadership convened a group of 30 fellows who have been a part of SDAWP ranging from 1992 to 2023. This was an opportunity for teacher leaders to connect their past by sharing their stories of how they came to SDAWP, fuel their present by reading Literacy’s Democratic Roots, and plan for future SDAWP events.

The goal of our meeting was to sustain a vibrant, energized community of professionals and be a support space for teacher leaders to learn from one another.

San Diego Science Project

Teacher/Researcher Collaborative (TRC)

In this Teacher / Researcher Collaborative (TRC) event, we learned about how a warming ocean impacts heat waves in Southern California from Dr. Mark Merrifield at the Scripps Institution of Oceanography at UC San Diego. This TRC was supported by the SoCal Heat Hub. Visit the site link to access resources.

If you missed this one, please click here to sign up for our next TRC event.
Teacher Leader | California Reading and Literature Project

Thomas Courtney

“When I attend any of these events, I feel empowered, and I know I am in the company of teachers who feel the same way. Through just this initiative, I have learned things I feel I should have gotten a long time ago — like how to incorporate phonics in small dynamic groups at middle school, collect a lifetime supply of great literature for small groups, and the value of having my students write authentically...

I also have gained many friends from many different work environments. I can now see, on those tough days, that I am not alone, and know where to go to get real, authentic help as a teacher and a person of conscience. These friendships have helped me better understand what I need to advocate for in regard to my own students, and that empowers me too. It gives me a sense of autonomy. It gives me a sense of authentic purpose.”

Counselor Testimonial

Brittany Oka

Monte Vista High School

Brittany attended a dynamic workshop hosted by Counselors for Computing (C4C), spearheaded by UC San Diego CREATE and the San Diego County Office of Education and incorporating content provided by National Center for Women & Information Technology’s (NCWIT) Counselor for Computing. Through the workshop, Brittany gained information and resources to help her students access transformative computing careers.

“This workshop has helped me promote Computer Science to our students. I am better able to articulate career paths and let students know that Computer Science is for all students, at any skill level. It has helped me demystify the perception that Computer Science is only for "smart" students. It has helped me promote computer science to female students as well.”
This article shares our university center’s efforts to act as a boundary spanner supporting colleagues across our university to contribute collectively to more equitable educational opportunities for local K–12 students and their teachers.

We focus here on the ongoing critical reflection and collaboration needed to tap such university resources to support K–12 students typically underresourced and underserved in K–12 systems. We consider examples and challenges of our work through five equity-oriented principles. We seek to highlight the role of research-practice teams on campuses that help (or could help) university partners contribute to local K–12 schools, programs, and systems with equity in mind.

Finally, we hope to convince other higher education institutions to leverage their resources more to grow K–12 education opportunities locally where needs are greatest.

PILOT PROGRAM EVALUATION BY CREATE

DISCOVER UC SAN DIEGO

Established in 2022, Discover UC San Diego officially launched its second instructional cohort during the fall 2023, building upon its initial launch in summer 2023. It remains a collaborative initiative involving UC San Diego’s Office of Educational Innovation, Division of Extended Studies, IT Services, Teaching and Learning Commons (TLC) and the San Diego Unified School District (SDUSD). CREATE is evaluating the program.

The program’s primary objective is to provide high-quality educational exposure and access to UC San Diego undergraduate coursework for a diverse range of high school students spanning grades 9 through 12.

The Discover UC San Diego program demonstrated significant programmatic satisfaction among students who completed courses. Next efforts will strengthen program completion and expand enrollment.
Want to support college preparation efforts in local schools and community programs? Want to join efforts in teacher professional development?

Students: check out our Programs page for volunteer and credit-bearing opportunities and potential employment.

Faculty/staff: check out our Partnerships and CREATE Equity K-20 Consulting (including CREATE STEM Success Initiative Annual Reports and Recent Supports to Faculty) for recent examples of our work to support colleagues to design, expand, evaluate, and execute local education programming.

Local educators and community members: check out our Programs and Partnerships throughout this site– and follow our social media to stay informed! We can support initial consultations in any discipline, particularly on pursuing grants and funded programming. Check out our People page and write to someone who specializes in what you want.

GET INVOLVED

STAY UPDATED THROUGHOUT THE YEAR

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ucsdcreate.wordpress.com
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create.ucsd.edu

GIVE TO CREATE AND MAKE IMPACT

Your donations help low-income, first-generation, and/or underrepresented students access higher education. Donating helps supports CREATE’s various outreach and community engagement programs and project activities.

DONATE NOW