

Building Community Through Governance: A Video History of Civic Literacy and Engagement Models of UC Student Regents

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Project Summary

Throughout the nation, the voice of students continues to be ignored, sidelined, or unheard, and we believe that student representatives in governing bodies have the ability to change that narrative. What was apparent in our 21-22 project with VOICE (Breaking Barriers Through Governance: The Role, Import, and Potential of Young People on Boards of Higher Education) that needs to be elucidated is twofold: (1) students on governing boards have to overcome a significant amount of resistance and challenge to be effective in their roles and (2) despite the perspective that they are of little to no consequence in decision making, they initiate, maintain, and lead critical conversations and policies that advance equity and opportunity. This year's VOICE project builds on the conversations and themes we uncovered in Breaking Barriers and will create a historical database of the narratives of UC Student Regent Emeriti. Our project will compile a historical video that can be shared across the UC Center page for our UC students and any other institutions looking to the University of California for student leadership guidance. We want to use this project as a way to build community among the past student regents but also serve as a way to build community with future student regents, with student board members across the nation, and with students who aspire to be leaders in higher education.

Student trustees from various years, campuses, race, and gender.

1. Michael Salerno, J.D.
 - a. UC Davis, Student Regent Emeritus (1977-1978)
2. David B. Hoffman, J.D., Ph.D.
 - a. UC Los Angeles, Student Regent Emeritus (1986–1987)
3. Diana K. Darnell, Ph.D.
 - a. UC San Francisco, Student Regent Emeritus (1991-1992)
4. Jess Bravin, J.D.

2023 VOICE Report



National Center
for Free Speech and
Civic Engagement

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- a. UC Berkeley, Student Regent Emeritus (1996-1997)
- 5. Marcela Ramirez-Stapleton, Ph.D.
 - a. UC Riverside, Student Regent Emeritus (2016-2017)
- 6. Jamaal Muwwakkil, Ph.D.
 - a. UC Santa Barbara, Student Regent Emeritus (2020-2021)
- 7. Alexis Atsilvsgi Zaragoza, B.A.
 - a. UC Berkeley, Student Regent Emeritus (2021-2022)

Impacts

This research project has tremendous potential when shared widely. It is a great educational tool for academics and civic engagement, and it displays the myriad of strengths students have in leading colleges and universities. We are always looking to share how we can strengthen the shared governance model of higher education and expand civic engagement for all community members. This project raises awareness of the student regent role and its impact and encourages students to apply themselves in different ways beyond the student trustee role. This piece can be used as a recruiting tool by the UC Regents, an educational tool by academics in the classroom, and an educational tool for anyone interested in civic engagement.