

Campus Update December 2013

BERKELEY VETERANS: A New Staff Organization

We are very excited to announce the launch of a new staff organization called Berkeley Veterans. The mission of this new group is to (1) serve veterans at UC Berkeley and the surrounding communities and to (2) serve the campus by acting as a bridge to the military and veteran community. Berkeley Veterans hosted their first reception on Tuesday, November 12th, at which members had an opportunity to network with other staff military veterans on campus, as well as learn about hiring opportunities for veterans. Currently, the group has marketed to a list of staff who self-identified as veterans through HR, but hopes to expand to others who did not identify as such through HR.

Inauguration of Chancellor Nicholas B. Dirks

The inauguration of Berkeley's 10th Chancellor, Nicholas B. Dirks, was held on November 8, 2013. The inaugural festivities included academic symposia, a rally, academic regalia, and a colorful Inaugural Procession of staff, alumni, faculty and administrators. University of California president, Janet Napolitano, who took office in September, conducted the Ceremony of Investiture. In his inaugural speech, Chancellor Dirks spoke of his own beginnings as a scholar and of the utopian ideals that gave birth to the University of California and its flagship campus: "... Berkeley is positioned not just to counter skepticism but to rebuild public faith in the value of education.... We must do this by re-invoking the utopian ideals that have animated the entire history of this great institution."

Cal Answers: A New Data Tool for the Berkeley Campus

Want to know how many people work at Berkeley? Or which students get financial aid? Have other questions about campus operations? A new online tool called Cal Answers can help. It's open to everyone on campus, and "one question, one answer" is its mantra. Detailed information about human resources data, course enrollments, student demographics, majors, grades, financial aid, applicants, time to graduation and campus spending is there, and more data will be added, including figures on alumni and how space is used. For Berkeley, Cal Answers is a critical cog in the machinery involved in orienting the campus toward its modern realities — changes in funding and the need for greater efficiency, responsiveness and transparency. Underway since 2008, this single campus repository is now home for the vast streams of data that UCB generates.