

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE FROM UCI TRANSPORTATION & DISTRIBUTION SERVICES

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UCI Recognized With Clean Air Excellence Award from U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

**Irvine, Calif., June 23, 2016** – Today, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) recognized the University of California, Irvine (UCI) with a Clean Air Excellence award for Transportation and Energy Innovations.

"Each of these award winners has taken real, tangible steps to improve public health in their communities by reducing air pollutants or greenhouse gases," said Janet McCabe, acting assistant administrator for EPA's Office of Air and Radiation. "These projects reflect the creativity and commitment of public and private sector organizations to make a difference and drive us toward a cleaner, healthier future."

UCI has turned the campus driving culture on end through its innovative sustainable transportation programs and services that promote clean air for the campus and region and provide cost-savings and widely-available commuting options for the campus's 40,000 faculty, staff and students.

The second largest employer in Orange County, UCI has developed a wide range of sustainable commuter travel options which has enabled the campus to not only meet, but exceed by 30% the South Coast Air Quality Management District mandate to reduce emissions from employee commutes. Through its staff's broad adoption of sustainable transportation, UCI annually reduces 40,172,179 vehicle miles traveled, saves 21,000 metric tons of GHG emissions, removes thousands of vehicles from campus and regional roadways each day, and defers the need to build more parking infrastructure.

Vanpools, carpools, train, bus, walk and bike bring 65 percent of UCI's commuters to campus and unlimited rides on California's first automated bike share and car-sharing options give commuters

sustainable options for travel during the day without needing a personal vehicle. Additionally, convenient electric vehicle charging has accelerated the adoption of electric vehicles, and unique rideshare events encourage and educate campus commuters about sustainable transportation benefits. UCI continues to develop programs that reduce pollutants from commuter travel and improve consumer choice of travel options.

**About the Clean Air Excellence Awards:** The Clean Air Excellence awards program was established in 2000, and recognizes individuals that serve as pioneers in their fields, advance public understanding of air pollution and improve air quality. Entries are judged by the EPA and the Clean Air Advisory Committee in Washington, D.C.

**About UCI Transportation and Distribution Services:** UCI Transportation and Distribution Services oversees all transportation planning, parking, and mail services at the University of California, Irvine. UCI Transportation has an environmental commitment to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from all vehicles traveling on and around the UCI campus. This commitment to reduce costs and emissions is at the heart of every program and service offered to the UCI campus community. For more information, visit <a href="https://www.parking.uci.edu">www.parking.uci.edu</a>.

**About the University of California, Irvine:** Currently celebrating its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary, UCI is the youngest member of the prestigious Association of American Universities. The campus has produced three Nobel laureates and is known for its academic achievement, premier research, innovation and anteater mascot. Led by Chancellor Howard Gillman, UCI has more than 30,000 students and offers 192 degree programs. It's located in one of the world's safest and most economically vibrant communities and is Orange County's second-largest employer, contributing \$4.8 billion annually to the local economy. For more on UCI, visit <a href="www.uci.edu">www.uci.edu</a>.