

WELCOME TO UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SANTA CRUZ

# FUTURE BANA BANA SLUG!

University of California, Santa Cruz has so many things to offer. Top notch research programs. Globally recognized faculty, staff, and students. Gorgeous redwoods. Pacific Ocean views. What's missing? You! The Black student population on campus has grown exponentially over the past 10 years. But we can definitely afford to grow some more. We hope to bring scholars like you, who are excited about continuing their curricular education but are also willing to learn a bit more about themselves as they step onto this special campus in the woods.

The Office for African, Black & Caribbean Student Success and the African American Resource & Cultural Center (AARCC) work hand in hand to ensure that all students with an interest in African, Black, and Caribbean (ABC) culture find support in all areas of their student experience.

Lenora Willis, Executive Director of Retention and Validation

The Office for African, Black, & Caribbean Student Success advocates for the holistic success of African, Black, and Caribbean students. Through assessment and cross campus collaboration, the office secures campus-wide strategic initiatives and priorities by addressing equity gaps, climate issues, enrollment, retention, and graduation rates of ABC students at UC Santa Cruz- with the acknowledgement and understanding that the pursuit of Black Liberation means Liberation for everyone. At the same time. the African American Resource & Cultural Center (AARCC) endeavors to empower ABC students and community members to explore, honor, and respect their intersecting identities throughout their educational journey. The AARCC aims to be a hub for Black community on campus, while addressing systemic issues that impact the ABC community. The combined efforts, care, and vision of these two offices work towards creating an environment of liberation, academic excellence, and innovation for students at UCSC.

We look forward to having you join our community.



#### YOU BELONG HERE

The programs and services described in this publication are open to all, consistent with state and federal law, as well as the University of California's nondiscrimination policies. Every initiative -- whether a student service, faculty program, or community event -- is designed to be accessible, inclusive, and respectful of all identities.



The artwork on the cover of this publication is an original piece commissioned from artist Paul Lewin. Originally from Kingston, Jamaica, Lewin is a Miami, Floridabased artist who is well known for his Afrofuturistic, inspirational images. He was recently nominated for a Hugo Award for Best Professional Artist in a science fiction or fantasy context.



# WE ARE YOUR FELLOW STUDENTS

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#### ELYSE VENERABLE

Anthropology; Bioarchaeology, Stevenson College From Los Angeles, CA Transferred from Santa Monica College

AM the 2023-2024 Academic Year's UMOJA Intern, which involves coordinating and hosting events and workshops to help retain Black students on campus! I worked for ABC Student Success, as a student researcher, helping create a Pan-African Research Toolkit which aims to guide research on the Black experience. Additionally, I am deeply involved in the Anthropology department. I am a part of the UC-HBCU Graduate Pathways Internship in African Diaspora Archaeology which involves a month-long hands-on archaeological experience in Saclo, Benin over Summer '23. Following this internship, I will be a participant in an on campus lab analyzing and interpreting excavated material from the site. I am also an intern at the Monterey Bay Archaeological Archive Center, as well as a trainee at the W.M. Keck Isotope Laboratory where I work on my senior thesis project.

I was drawn to UCSC's stellar research faculty that uplifts students of color and makes enthusiastic efforts to help students succeed. I was astounded by the amount of free food pantries on campus! The Redwood Free Market has fresh, clean produce that I frequent at any given opportunity.

#### What advice do you have for incoming students?

Show up and use as many resources available to you as possible! From free food pantries, professional headshots, and clothes to resume building workshops, faculty colloquiums, and even office hours, every resource can be used to serve you in some shape or form. When it comes to professional, casual, and social events, showing up and finding how it can serve your betterment is invaluable and an opportunity you should take whenever you can. You never know what you may learn unless you show up!





#### **SHEYNA BURNS**

Sociology, Oakes College From Long Beach, CA Transferred from Compton College

I AM currently engaged in a project to establish a vertical farm on our campus. The primary objective of this initiative is to enhance access to fresh and nutrient-rich produce for students grappling with food insecurities. Additionally, we aim to foster a new generation of farmers and contribute to the advancement of farming practices within the agro-industry.

The location has been a major factor in my decision to be here. As someone from Southern California, the opportunity to reside in Santa Cruz and be surrounded by an abundance of nature has been a driving force. It has provided me with a deep sense of connection to the natural world and has enriched my overall experience.



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#### SERENA CAMPBELL

Sociology and Critical Race and Ethnic Studies, Merrill College From Fairfax, CA

#### DURING MY TIME AT UCSC I have been

the president of the Mixed Ethnic and Cultural Student Association (MECSA), I have served for the African American Resource and Cultural Center as an African American Mentorship Program Mentor and a Liaison Intern, and I have been an EOP Wellness intern.

Academically, I have had the opportunity to be involved in research on-campus through being a mentee in the Educational Opportunity Programs' Pathways 2 Research as well as a Building Belonging Fellow for the Institute for Social Transformation, which allowed me to write my award-winning senior thesis "The university needs to listen": Moving from Mainstream to Critical Environmentalism at UC Santa Cruz.

I wanted to attend UCSC because of the excellent sociology program, the opportunities to participate in undergraduate research, and most importantly, the beautiful nature and proximity to the ocean.

#### What was one surprising experience you have had at UC Santa Cruz?

The ABC community at UCSC is small, but that allows it to be very tight-knit and protective in ways that are unheard of at other universities. We go out of our way to say hello when we spot each other walking around campus and have so many great staff/faculty/campus resources to make sure that we thrive at UCSC!

#### How has your UC Santa Cruz experience changed you?

I came to UCSC from a predominantly white town and had gone to predominantly white schools all of my life. Coming to UCSC allowed me to join a legendary community of Black scholars who are so inspiring and transformative, which has allowed me to go after opportunities on-campus and beyond that I did not think I was deserving of.

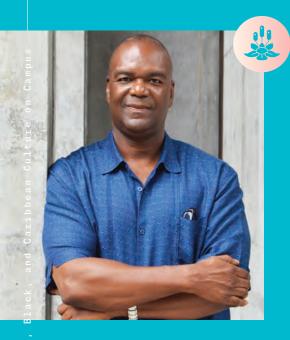
#### What advice do you have for incoming students? Do not be afraid to ask for help enjoy the beauty of this

Do not be afraid to ask for help, enjoy the beauty of this campus while you are here, and be prepared to walk!



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# WE ARE YOUR FACULTY AND STAFF





#### DR. JAMES DOUCET-BATTLE

B.A., Anthropology and M.A., History and Anthropology, San Jose State University M.A., Sociocultural Anthropology and Ph.D., Medical Anthropology, UC Berkeley and UCSF

A graduate of the UC Berkeley/UC San Francisco Joint Medical Anthropology Doctoral Program, Dr. Doucet-Battle focuses his research and teaching interests at the intersection of science, technology, and society studies, development studies, and anthropological approaches to health and medicine. His 2021 book, *Sweetness in the Blood: Race, Risk, and Type 2 Diabetes*, has been called "a bold new indictment of the racialization of science."

#### What I want future students to know.

"Prioritize your interests and follow your passions, while remaining ever open to receiving mentorship and taking leadership. Use this opportunity to create strong networks that build innovative bridges and generative collaborations across and beyond the university. And most of all, never say 'no' to yourself. You belong here."

#### DR. MYRIAM TELUS

B.S., Geophysical Sciences, University of Chicago
Ph.D., Geology and Geophysics, University of Hawaii at Manoa
Postdoctoral Fellow, Carnegie Institute for Science

Dr. Telus is a cosmochemist who specializes in chemical analyses of meteorites to understand the formation and evolution of the Solar System and planets. She utilizes a wide variety of laboratory techniques for her work. Dr. Telus is the director of the scanning electron microscope used



to analyze the microscopic components within meteorites. She was recently awarded a National Science Foundation Early Career Award.

#### What I want future students to know.

I want future students to take advantage of all resources the university offers to promote student success. I want them to try new things, seek mentors, and don't worry about fitting in — be yourself.

#### **DON WILLIAMS**

Lansing Community College
B.A., Theater Arts, Michigan State University
M.F.A. Program, Directing and Theater History,
University of Southern California

Donald G. Williams is a well known educator, director, and producer who has guided and mentored student productions at UCSC for over 30 years. Williams has presented plays, presentations, and workshops throughout California. He is a member of the California Educational Theater Association, Black Theater Network, National Black Theater Festival, United States Institute of Theater Technology, and NAACP. He is the founder and director of the UCSC African American Theater Arts Troupe in 1991 and producer of Rainbow Theater in 1993, focusing on African Americans, Asian Americans, and Chicanx/ Latinx Americans' culture and experiences.

#### What I want future students to know.

"It is extremely important that you constantly seek to understand your history, and always have a hunger and thirst for knowledge. To be connected with Theater, you will always be on a journey of self discovery and always prepared to get back to community and society as a whole."

#### **NWADIUTO (DT) AMAJOYI**

Attorney | Pepperdine University School of Law, J.D. 2018

UCSC Activities: Commissioner of Diversity for Student Union Assembly (student government), later elected Student Body President, student organizer for Dream Act, Rainbow Theater, Residential Assistant, chairs in multiple student organizations such as the National People of Color Student Association and the UC Student Association.

After graduating from UC Santa Cruz in 2013, DT attended law school and then worked as an immigration lawyer, representing refugees and asylum seekers.

"I gained so many skills just being involved in organizations and leadership at UC Santa Cruz. And I took all of that and brought it over to the professional space," DT said. "Being able to use the tools that I had gained to actually help people in a real way? That felt amazing."

DT is now a corporate attorney at Tucker Ellis LLP in Los Angeles, CA.







#### TIFFANY DENA LOFTIN

Oakes College, Political Science '11

UCSC Activities: President of the Student Union Assembly for one year and VP for 2 years, helped establish Black housing on campus (Rosa Parks African American Theme House -RPAATH). Pushed for ethnic studies at UCSC. which eventually led to a Black studies minor. Participated in African American Theater Arts Troupe and Rainbow Theater for four years.

Since graduating, Loftin served as Commissioner for the White House on behalf of Barack Obama. She was also the National Director of the Youth & College Division at the NAACP. Now, she is the Senior Campaign Lead for Delta flight attendants who are forming a union. She also is a lecturer at UCSC, teaching leadership, and continues to work on human rights campaigns.

#### What advice would you give to future students?

"College is the most important, significant, and powerful journey that you will have to prepare you for the life that you want to live. The best way to take full advantage of that preparation is by trying everything when you're on campus".



#### WISDOM COLE

Oakes College, Chemistry '15 Senior National Director of Advocacy for the NAACP

UCSC Activities: Neighborhood Assistant in Oakes College, Residential Assistant in the Rosa Parks African American Themed House (Stevenson College), active in Black Student Organizing spaces, STEM Diversity Research Program

Today, Wisdom "helps young people build Black political power" - helping youth understand our political system, meet with elected officials and hold them accountable.

#### What advice would you give to future students?

"As soon as you come to campus, find community. Find your people, find your tribe, find the folks who are going to hold you down. Being able to find a community that's going to help you both emotionally and physically, spiritually, is absolutely necessary to your success. There's the work that you do in the classroom that you're going into every day. But there's also the work that happens in your life, day to day on campus. How are you applying the lessons that you're learning in class to those real world experiences?"





# WE ARE PURSUII KNOWLEDGE



#### MINOR IN MIDDLE EASTERN AND NORTH AFRICAN STUDIES

If you are interested in the complex interactions among the cultures and histories of this region of the world, you may want to try this minor, which takes advantage of the innovative scholars in UCSC's Center for the Middle East and North Africa (CMENA).



CRITICAL RACE AND ETHNIC STUDIES (CRES) MAJOR

Critical Race and Ethnic Studies (CRES) is an exciting, wide-ranging major that offers a study of the dynamic power relations resulting from the cultural and institutional productions of the idea of "race" on a local, national, and global scale. CRES students examine the concept of race in a rigorous, critical way that intersects with such fields as postcolonial studies, settler colonialism studies, human rights studies, Indigenous studies, migration, diaspora and border studies, mixed race studies, legal studies, environmental studies, and science studies.

The CRES major will give you a deep knowledge of historical, contemporary, and intellectual perspectives on race and ethnicity. It will also hone your communication and research skills, and may additionally be used as an entry into community collaboration, engagement, and activism.



#### **BLACK STUDIES MINOR**

The Black Studies minor offers grounding in the intellectual histories, political movements, cultural expressions, and critical theories of the Black diaspora, all while engaging a range of methodologies from across disciplines. Attention to the significance of social justice is a hallmark of the minor. Supported by faculty expertise in Africa, the Caribbean, the Americas, Europe, and the Pacific, students can explore the globally multisited nature of Black freedom struggles, both past and present, and examine Blackness through a comparative lens.



#### HISTORY CONCENTRATION IN THE AMERICAS AND AFRICA

Interested in learning more about the African diaspora in a historical context? You may want to major in History with a concentration in The Americas and Africa. This concentration invites you to explore the complex history of intercultural encounter, exchange, and conflict that connects South, Central, and North America and the diverse nations of Africa.



#### **OAKES CARA**

Do you have a vision for collaborating with others to help improve our community? The Community-based Action Research and Advocacy (CARA) Program at Oakes College might be for you. CARA offers a variety of opportunities to engage with the communities and social justice issues that matter most to you, through experiential learning in fields like education, legal aid, and assisting organizations with outreach and community-development work through their courses. For more information on CARA courses and the CARA Certificate, please see oakescara.ucsc.edu/about



WE ARE LIFTING EACH OTHER UP.

#### **IGNITE**

Inspiring Growth, Nurturing Innovation, & Transforming Education, aka IGNITE, is an Extended Orientation Program open to both first-year students and transfer students. IGNITE is designed to support and guide you in your transition to the university, as well as provide a general introduction to the people and resources that will help you flourish, in addition to offering fun social programs that will bring students together.

The program includes multiple interactive activities and workshops to help equip you with UCSC resources, connect with your Student Success and Equity team, and unpack your new journey as a Banana Slug.

You will be asked to apply to the program during the spring of the year you enroll. If selected, you will be notified by email with more details about how to prepare for the experience. There will be opportunities to connect with mentors throughout the summer, participate in some virtual workshops to prepare for your arrival, and an in-person experience program set to begin in September, shortly before the start of fall quarter. If you have any questions, please contact ignite@ucsc.edu.



tinyurl.com/sseignite



### AFRICAN AMERICAN MENTORSHIP PROGRAM (AAMP)

AAMP is the African American Mentorship Program created in 2012 by the African American Resource & Cultural Center (AARCC) as an effort to support African/ Black/Caribbean (ABC) students within their first year at the university. The program pairs mentees with mentors that have similar interests, courses of study, etc. in order to support the transition to the university. We champion professional development for mentors and enabling mentees with a greater sense of community and belonging in preparation for their journey here at UCSC. Having a mentor can be extremely helpful in navigating the campus and the UC system as a whole. We succeed by lifting up others!





#### **OUTING EVENTS**

- Black Joy Parade in Oakland
- Trip to the Monterey Bay Aquarium
- Big Sur Hiking Trip

## COMMUNITY - CENTERED EVENTS

#### Welcome Black BBQ

The Welcome Black BBQ is the first largescale event AARCC puts on at the beginning of the academic year. It serves as a chance for incoming students to get acquainted with one another, with the resources on campus, and to bond while eating some good barbecue.

#### Black Joy Banquet

This formal event is a culminating dinner for fall quarter, co-sponsored with UMOJA. This event offers space for students to engage in dining in a formal setting, serving to facilitate community engagement while also providing community support prior to finals week. In addition to catered food, there is music, photo booths, and dancing.

Weekly Drop-In Programs

 Intersectional Programming (such as Pachanga, Mardi Gras, and ABC Queer programming)

Black Day

#### Black Love Gala

The Black Love Gala is an annual event that serves as UCSC's Black Prom. Its purpose is to hold a space for the celebration, to dress up in our finest attire, eat good food, and be united on a grand scale.

- Black Grad Fest
- Black Grad

#### **WELLNESS EVENTS**

- Week 10 Wellness Wind Down
- Black Mental Health Matters
- National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day

## EVENTS HIGHLIGHTING CULTURAL WEALTH

- Bakosó Film Screening
- Capoeira Workshop

#### Pachanga

Pachanga aims to highlight Afro-Latinx/e culture and visibility. African arrivals to Latin America heavily influenced both Latinx/e and African cultures since the 16th Century. The Spanish empire unsuccessfully attempted to destroy African identities and cultures. This gave African music the ability to thrive in Latin America. Pachanga is organized by student interns from the Chicanx/Latinx Resource Center and the AARCC.

### CAREER AND NETWORKING EVENTS

- Black Men's Alumni Connector Event
- The Shop

The Shop is a collaboration with the Black Men's Alliance Alumni group and the ABC community of UCSC. BMA Alumni bring barbers, barbeque, and wisdom to campus for an intimate day of intergenerational gathering. This event is open to folks of all genders, and encourages students to connect with ABC alumni.

#### **PERFORMANCES**

African American Theater Arts Troupe



# YOUR STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS



There are plenty of opportunities to get involved in the ABC Community outside of the classroom. Through the SOAR Office (Student Organization Advising and Resources), you can join or even start your own student-led organization. These spaces are run by students for students and are open to anyone with an interest in ABC culture. Here are a few of the growing ABC Organizations at UCSC.

#### **Black Student Union (BSU)**

bsu.slugs@gmail.com

The purpose of BSU is to mobilize students on campus to provide our community with safe, educational, healing, and overall space dedicated to Black bodies and well-being.

#### MECSA (Mixed Ethnic Cultural Student Association) ucscmecsa0@gmail.com

The Mixed Ethnic/Cultural Student Association aims to create space and visibility for students of mixed heritage. We create community around the shared experience of living mixed racial and/or cultural lives within the US, California, and Santa Cruz. We provide a space for members to express their various identities without fear of judgment. We welcome all students that want to learn about the multicultural community of UCSC and wish to be allies in our experience. We work together with other cultural student organizations to promote an inclusive community for all students.

#### National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE) nsbe@ucsc.edu

NSBE, with more than 29,900 members, is one of the largest student-governed organizations in the country. Founded in 1975, NSBE now includes more than 394 College, Pre-College, and Technical Professional/Alumni chapters in the U.S. and abroad. nsbe.engineering.ucsc.edu

#### Umoja

#### ucsantacruz.umoja@gmail.com

Umoja means unity in Swahili; Umoja is a student-initiated, student-run, needs-based program dedicated to student retention and graduation, umojacommunity.org







# WE SUPPORT YOU

#### YOU ARE NOT ALONE. WE SEE YOU.

UC Santa Cruz strives to create an environment in which all students can succeed. We are committed to helping all students graduate in good time and thrive academically. We are also committed to enrolling and nurturing a diverse, dynamic student body as part of our campus commitment to equity and excellence.

#### **The Division of Student Affairs & Success**

The Division of Student Affairs and Success (DSAS) provides campus-wide coordination and leadership for student success programs and activities across departments, divisions, the colleges, and administrative units. We support initiatives across the campus, including the Office for ABC Student Success! The Office for ABC Student Success support services span all aspects of the student experience – from career, to learning, to wellness, to belonging.

This is just one of many resources that DSAS has for students. Scan the QR code here for a full list of resources!



#### PAN AFRICAN RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP

The Pan African Research Fellowship is designed for students to conduct research into barrier identification in the areas of ABC student wellness, learning, engagement, and career preparation. This program was co-created with ABC students and guided by student research and advocacy goals to achieve more coalition-building between the student body and administrators.

#### ONYX: BLACK FACULTY & STAFF ASSOCIATION

An excellent source for mentors during your time at UCSC and beyond, Onyx is a community space for Pan African staff and faculty members working together to promote Black excellence.

ONYX participates in many events, such as Black Love Gala and the Black Graduation Celebration.

Black students on campus have a wonderful team of advocates in ONYX!

#### DR. AKIRAH BRADLEY-ARMSTRONG, VICE CHANCELLOR, DIVISION OF STUDENT AFFAIRS AND SUCCESS

"To our African, Black and Caribbean students I want to express my excitement and gratitude that you chose - or are thinking of choosing - UC Santa Cruz. Our community is vibrant, academically rigorous, and socially conscious. In the Division of Student Affairs and Success, we take great pride in building an inclusive community where your voices are heard and who you are is valued and celebrated. As you prepare to become tomorrow's leaders, we know your collegiate experience matters. We know, too, that feeling like you belong is essential to your ability to thrive in and out of the classroom. Throughout your time at UC Santa Cruz, we will offer a number of resources, events, and community engagement opportunities to support your success. We are committed to supporting you in your journey-wherever the path may lead."

# DR. EBONÉE WILLIAMS, ASSOCIATE VICE CHANCELLOR FOR STUDENT SUCCESS AND EQUITY

"Congratulations! As a first-generation inner city child from Oakland, CA, who is now an Associate Vice Chancellor at a UC and holds a doctorate in engineering, I know the path to success is rarely easy. I appreciate all that you have done to be in a position to look at college. I would appreciate your perspective in the world. When you choose UC Santa Cruz as part of your success story, we want to be a part of your growth, way of finding, and sense of belonging on this campus as you chart your future. You are not alone. We see you. I look forward to your presence on campus."



# WE ARE SANTAGRUZ

Santa Cruz is a vibrant, beachside community with stunning natural beauty, year-round sports and recreation, a variety of restaurants from cheap eats to fine dining, and plenty of arts and cultural events. Get out into our famous sunshine and explore Santa Cruz – there's so much to do!

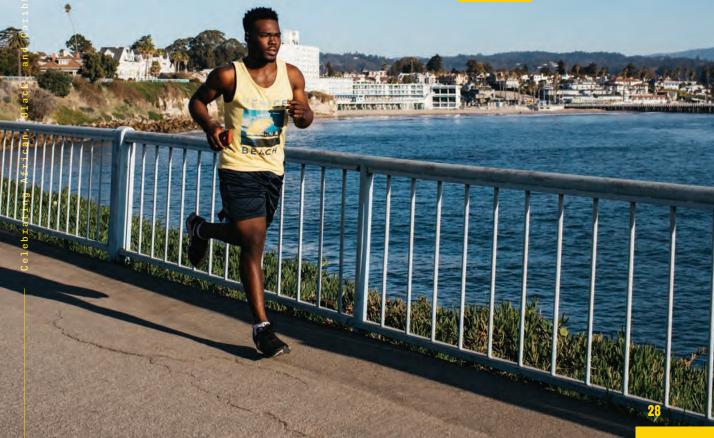
Scan here for a link to local Black-owned businesses!





Take a look at

Santa Cruz Black!



#### SOME THINGS AARCC INTERNS LIKE TO DO IN THEIR FREE TIME AROUND SANTA CRUZ

- Take the Hwy 17 Bus over the Hill to San Jose
- Visit the Santa Cruz Museum of Art & History
- Take a Hike to the Garden of Eden
- Rollerskate at the Santa Cruz Roller Palladium
- Visit the UCSC Arboretum

- Take a Walk on West Cliff
- Paint Something at Petroglyph
- Go to the Mystery Spot
- Frisbee Golf at Delaveaga Park
- Have Fun at the Boardwalk!

- Catch a Movie Downtown
- Shop at the Antique Faire Downtown
- Hit the Spa at Well Within Spa
- Volunteer at Barrios Unidos or the Homeless Garden Project
- Hike Wilder Ranch, Visit Fern Grotto Beach





#### Black Hair Stylist Anita Marie Hair

Located inside Evolve Beauty Lounge, 4210 Capitola Road, Capitola



#### Black Massage Therapist Marshall Payne

545 Fredrick Street, Santa Cruz (also a UCSC alum!)



#### Terra & Self Kenne Johnson

Black-owned, woman-owned skin care store at 347 Soquel Avenue, Santa Cruz



831.459.3561 · aarcc.ucsc.edu ·



PRODUCED BY: AARCC, Office of ABC Student Success, and Undergraduate Admissions
DESIGN: Patrick Fennessy • COVER ART: Paul Lewin
August 2025

UC SANTA CRUZ