Community Group Update – March 2020

Projects

The UC San Diego 2018 Long Range Development Plan directs the location of instructional, research and campus support facilities. This plan is prepared in response to campus enrollment and population projections. Visit http://plandesignbuild.ucsd.edu/ for more information on upcoming projects. An interactive campus map illustrating major campus projects with brief descriptions is also available at maps.ucsd.edu.

UC San Diego East Campus – Mesa Housing Neighborhood

This month’s update highlights capital investments in graduate campus housing as well as a bike and pedestrian bridge.

Mesa Nueva Graduate and Professional Student Housing, which opened in August 2017, provides 1,355 beds for graduate and professional students and a 900 space parking structure. Residential units accommodated in five buildings include a combination of studio, 1-bedroom, 2-bedroom, and 3-bedroom units (for a total of 1,355 new beds).

The apartment buildings surround a large open space area where students can play volleyball, bocce ball, or relax and exercise in the pool area.

The Nuevo West Graduate Student Housing Project will open its doors to graduate students this spring. The project will provide 802 new beds for single graduate and professional students. Housing consists of two residential buildings and includes a mix of studios, 2-bedroom, 4-bedroom and 6-bedroom apartments, a 1,200 space parking structure and a separate small building for a convenience neighborhood market.

The La Jolla Family House is also part of this project, providing approximately 82 beds and support and administrative space for UC San Diego Health. Similar to the Bannister Family House at the Hillcrest Medical Center, the La Jolla Family House will provide accommodations for patients and their families in need of immediate support while receiving medical treatment from UC San Diego Health in La Jolla.

The Nuevo East Student Housing Project is scheduled for completion this fall. The project will provide 1,414 beds for single graduate and professional students in apartment-style housing. The housing consists of a mix of 1-, 2-, and 3-bedroom apartments. The project includes fitness and wellness spaces, administrative offices, multipurpose rooms, gathering spaces, a public plaza, and community gardens. The project also includes a student community center, Exchange, that will provide support services for residents of Nuevo East, Mesa Nueva, Nuevo West, and One Miramar Apartments.
The Mesa Housing Pedestrian and Bike Bridge Project was completed in February and serves as a campus connection between the Mesa Housing neighborhood and the Medical Center for pedestrian and wheeled-device users. In total, the bridge spans 465 linear feet and features a 10-foot-wide bicycle lane and a separate 6-foot-wide pedestrian walkway. The northwest end of the bridge will connect to the existing sidewalk at Medical Center Drive, providing direct access to the Gilman Drive Bridge. At the southeast end, the pathway will connect to Miramar Street, allowing access for Mesa Housing residents. This bridge creates significantly shorter and safer routes between UC San Diego’s East and West Campuses and keeps UC San Diego community members off busy local City streets.

Summary of Mesa Housing Projects. The Mesa Nueva, Nuevo West, and Nuevo East projects consist of LEED (Leadership in Energy and Efficient Design) Gold Certified buildings, consistent with University of California Office of the President’s sustainability goals. Mesa Housing is also located in close proximity to the Light Rail Trolley stations on and near campus. This will further improve sustainability by reducing reliance on automobiles. The recently completed pedestrian and bicycle improvements along with connectivity to the Gilman Bridge will also improve non-motorized connectivity between the Mesa Housing Neighborhood on the East Campus and academic facilities and amenities on the West campus.

Since campus housing is significantly more affordable than off-campus housing, the demand for campus housing is at an all-time high. Overall, campus graduate and professional student housing in the Mesa Housing area is approximately 20 to 30 percent lower than the surrounding market-rate units.

Visit current projects for more information on these and other projects.

More at UC San Diego...

Closing the Gap: UC San Diego Recognized as Standout in Expanding Access to Low Income Students

Ensuring access to low-income students and supporting them through graduation is a central component to UC San Diego’s mission to bridge the gap and improve outcomes for all qualified students regardless of income.

The campus is among 30 universities in the nation that have teamed with the American Talent Initiative (ATI) to expand opportunities for low- and moderate-income students. UC San Diego has added 1,642 Pell students over the last three years, more than any institution that is part of ATI. The Initiative recently announced that UC San Diego and other key institutions have kept ATI on track to achieve its goal of enrolling 50,000 or more students who receive federal Pell Grants by 2025.

More than 60 percent of all UC San Diego Students receive some form of financial aid, and about one-third of students receive a Pell Grant and/or are the first in their family to attend college.

“We’ve learned that in order to truly expand access to education, admitting more lower-income students is only part of the equation,” said UC San Diego Chancellor Pradeep Khosla. “We need to ensure our high-achieving, low-income students have more support, specific to both their academic and cultural needs. Support is what makes success not only possible, but inevitable.”

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