Building on Success and Shaping the Future for UCLA

In less than 100 years, UCLA has become one of the world’s best universities, a dynamic place where risks are taken, barriers are broken and anything is possible. UCLA’s size and scope allow for unimagined diversity, unmatched breadth and worldwide impact. But with state budgets declining and the competition gaining, UCLA’s ability to continue to attract the best students and faculty, invest in world-changing research, and make our communities healthier, safer and stronger, requires a strong ability to tell UCLA’s story at the local, state and federal levels.

Developing strong relationships between UCLA and a wide variety of legislators and policy makers is a necessary element in garnering the support needed to keep moving UCLA forward. These efforts will ensure that UCLA remains intellectually vibrant and continues to serve California and the greater society as an extraordinary resource for creating and disseminating knowledge. The three main areas where the greatest impact lies in the ability to tell UCLA’s narrative are:

- **Academic Programs, Research and Campus Culture.** Reinforcement of UCLA as an outstanding model for how an intellectually integrated campus can create knowledge in new and innovative ways.

- **Campus without Borders: Los Angeles and Beyond.** Solidification and enhancement of UCLA’s reputation as a global university committed to finding innovative ways to serve communities.

- **Path to Financial Self-Reliance.** UCLA’s investment in its future by raising funds for students, faculty, programs and infrastructure—and by increasing its endowment.

Please [click here](https://www.ucla.edu) to learn more about UCLA or visit our website at: [www.ucla.edu](http://www.ucla.edu).
About Federal Relations at UCLA

The Government & Community Relations (GCR) division of UCLA is the link between the campus and the community, and between the University and the government. GCR works to build bridges between UCLA, the greater Los Angeles community and the government entities with which they interact each day by providing ideas, information, counsel and assistance. In the process, GCR seeks to strengthen support for UCLA, the University of California and public higher education.

As part of UCLA’s GCR division, the Federal Relations Office serves as a liaison responsible for maintaining relationships between UCLA and Members of Congress, Congressional staff, Agency personnel, Congressional Committees and Caucuses, business and industry leadership, higher education associations and professional societies. The office promotes UCLA’s research, education and public service activities in an effort to increase federal support for the campus and to expand awareness of UCLA in Washington, D.C. UCLA provides liaison to one-third of the California Congressional Delegation as assigned by the University of California Office of the President. The office also provides support and service both to the campus and to the University of California Office of the President. Additionally, the Federal Relations team works to develop a network of staff, alumni and friends in support of public policy issues to assess and manage legislative and regulatory issues that affect the campus.

The Federal Relations staff works with legislators who are important to the campus because they represent a Southern California district; serve on committees whose decisions are critical to higher education and research; represent constituents who work, learn and benefit from the University’s presence; or count themselves among its alumni.

The issues they address vary widely, encompassing everything from higher-education grants and loans to rules for international student visas, intellectual property laws and research-funding decisions. Simply put, any interaction between UCLA and the federal government is a focus for the Federal Relations team.

The Federal Relations team’s success is critical to UCLA’s future. With more than $500 million in federally supported research projects and more than one-third of UCLA’s undergraduate students receiving federal financial aid, maintaining good working relationships with federal legislators and executive branch agencies is essential.

To learn more about federal relations at UCLA, please click here or visit their website at http://advocacy.ucla.edu/federal/.
Richard L. Benbow, III  
Senior Executive Director of Government & Community Relations

As Senior Executive Director of Government & Community Relations at UCLA, Richard Benbow is charged with modernizing the advocacy efforts of the University, developing compelling strategies and enhancing existing ventures to engage elected official and local stakeholders to strengthen support for UCLA, the University of California and public higher education.

Prior to joining UCLA in early 2016, Richard held senior level management positions with Time Warner Cable and the City of Los Angeles. Each of these positions focused on building and expanding a wide variety of business and community partnership to raise awareness, increase performance and promote civic alliances.

Earlier in Richard's career, he served in roles at DirecTV to include Assistant Manager, Sports Programming and Manager, Affiliate and Government Affairs. As part of these positions, he managed affiliate partnerships and government relations while forming valuable cross-functional relationships with a wide variety of internal constituent groups. Drawing on his knowledge of the legislative impact of negotiations and operating limitations have enabled Richard to provide assistance in all of his roles for multiple areas such as acquisition strategies, verifying compliance with federal and state mandates and initiating programs and projects to engage customers and expand market share.

Although always somewhat driven by the business side, it was his internship in the office of U.S. Rep. Julian Dixon and the work he did for Rep. Henry Waxman not long after completing his undergraduate degree that have always been the threads to identify him as the person to deal with government entities.

Richard completed his MBA at the University of Michigan Stephen M. Ross School of Business and also holds an MA in Emerging Communication Technology Policy and Strategy from the University of Southern California. He completed a BS in Business Management and International Business from Howard University in Washington, D.C.

Richard is a member of the National Association of Multi-Ethnicity in Communications, Women in Cable Telecommunications, Leadership Los Angeles, and the Cable & Telecommunications Association for Marketing, and served as a Diversity Council Committee Leader representing Time Warner Cable. He served on the Executive Board of Directors for the California Cable & Telecommunications Association and is a former Board member for the Harbor City Boys and Girls Club.
The Position

Primary Responsibilities

The Executive Director, Federal Relations position is a senior member of the UCLA Government & Community Relations management team reporting to the Senior Executive Director. The position is campus based in Los Angeles, responsible for managing the UCLA Federal Relations unit. The unit has two Assistant Directors and an Administrative support person that report to the Executive Director – Federal Relations as well as a program budget. The responsibilities of the Executive Director, Federal Relations support a strategic and positive government relations program whose objective is to actively seek opportunities to facilitate UCLA’s academic and fiscal advantage through a wide range of strategies and relationships.

Qualifications

- Demonstrated experience in government relations.
- Demonstrated superior analytical and organizational skills.
- Experience in federal government relations.
- Ability to execute a successful Federal Government relations program with a high degree of political sophistication.
- Demonstrated understanding of the political process.
- Demonstrated experience dealing with federal funding agency issues.
- Ability to successfully work in a political environment with a high degree of political sophistication, comprehensive understanding of the political process and knowledge of the intricate relationships among elected officials and their constituents.
- Ability to cultivate and maintain relationships with federal elected officials and their staffs as well as federal funding agency leadership and their staffs.
- Ability to direct the activities of staff and federal volunteer advocacy to target federal elected officials on an as-needed basis is preferred.
Qualifications (Cont’d.)

- Ability to monitor and analyze federal legislative issues impacting UCLA and advise the Assistant Vice Chancellor, Senior Executive Vice Chancellor and other high-level campus executives on appropriate strategies to achieve UCLA goals.

- Ability to develop short- and long-range strategies to manage critical federal issues.

- Ability to formulate and implement appropriate strategies to impact public policy issues that affect UCLA.

- Excellent interpersonal, written and oral communication skills.

- Familiarity with the campus is preferred.

Continued employment contingent upon completion of satisfactory background investigation.

The University of California is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer advancing inclusive excellence. All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, disability, age, protected veteran status, or other protected categories covered by the UC nondiscrimination policy - http://policy.ucop.edu/doc/4000376/NondiscrimAffirmAct

For more information about this position contact:

Amy Rueda  
Director, Talent Acquisition  
UCLA External Affairs – Employee and Organizational Engagement  
10900 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 600  
Los Angeles, CA 90024  
Phone: 310-983-3051  
arueda@support.ucla.edu

To apply for this position please click here or visit: www.developmentcareers.ucla.edu and click on "Open Positions" - Requisition #24064.