



Dear Research Community,

Little by little our campus is coming back to be the vibrant place that we love so much and missed for more than a year and a half. In the research area, activities are almost at the pre-COVID level. In particular, we have now rescinded one of the few long-standing pandemic related restrictions regarding human subject research. I refer you to the [announcement on October 29](#) for further details. I want to take this opportunity to thank all the members of the Research Ramp-up Committee for their dedication and sound advice, which have helped our campus keep a balance between safety, risks, and the needs to continue our research and creative activities since the pandemic started.

We took OASIS to the White House

We informed you during the [campus forum](#) and in our last newsletter about the \$15M from the state that our Opportunities to Advance Sustainability, Innovation, and Social Inclusion (OASIS) project received for the planning and preparation costs for the Clean Tech Park, the Phase I of the project. We are eagerly broadcasting many aspects of our project at the federal level too. I am extremely thankful to Kathy Eiler, UCR Director of Federal Relations, for recently putting together a very exciting two-day visit to our nation's capital. We shared the OASIS project with the leadership of NSF, the National Academies, the Department of Commerce, the Department of Education, and some of our representatives in Congress, culminating our visit in the West Wing of the White House, where we met with the Office of Intergovernmental Affairs. We took advantage that our Chancellor Kim Wilcox was going to be in DC to receive on behalf of our campus the [Seal of Excelencia certification](#), and he led our delegation in some of our visits. Rosibel Ochoa, Associate Vice Chancellor for Technology Partnerships, virtually joined some of the meetings too.

In all our interactions we found a lot of common interest at the federal level on some of the focusses of OASIS on clean tech and clean energy, climate change, health disparity, natural resources management, workforce development, and diversity, social inclusion and justice. We felt encouraged to continue our campus efforts in all these areas, while trying to secure external funding for our activities. On this last point, we recently partnered with the Inland Economic Growth & Opportunity (IEGO) group in the submission of an [EDA Building Back Better Regional Challenge](#), Phase I proposal. The proposal focused on clean logistic and supply chain challenges and opportunities in the Inland Empire. We secured 87 Letters of Support from both Riverside and San Bernardino counties, other universities and all 12 regional community colleges in the geographical area, community-based organizations, other government units, and industry. We hope to keep this unprecedented level of cooperation with such broad spectrum of regional partners to pursue other funding opportunities in the near future too.

We will continue to socialize the OASIS project with campus through meetings and presentations to receive feedback and keep everyone updated. If you would like us to give a presentation to your department or unit, please do not hesitate to let me know and we will gladly schedule a visit. ***Please stay tuned for some upcoming internal funding opportunity for programmatic activities related to OASIS.*** We will properly announce it in the near future.

EFOPA is back

Speaking of internal funding, we listened to popular demand and we are launching a second call for proposals for our Extramural Funding Opportunity Preparation Award (EFOPA) initiative. As with the first call last March, there will be two tracks:

- “Early-Career EFOPA”: Open only to UCR tenure-track assistant professors
- “General EFOPA”: Open to all UCR individuals eligible to serve as a Principal Investigator.

Please see the announcement below for deadlines and additional submission details. Please take also a few minutes to look at the rest of the information in this newsletter.

As always, stay safe and continue to be creative and productive. Thank you for all what you do for UCR and our community,
Rodolfo