

UC SANTA BARBARA

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Meghan Bush

Sara Miller McCune Gives \$1.5 Million to UCSB's Arts & Lectures Program

A generous leadership gift to the UC Santa Barbara's Arts & Lectures program has been announced by Miller McCune Executive Director Celesta Billeci.

Speaking at a June 10 reception to launch the 2011-12 season, Billeci announced that the program had recently received the largest gift in its history from well-known local philanthropist and businesswoman Sara Miller McCune.

"Sara has been an extremely generous supporter of Arts & Lectures for many years," said Billeci.

"She has an acute understanding of the value of our program to the university and the Santa Barbara community, and her commitment to our success has always been unwavering."

Sara Miller McCune's gift is a combination of endowment and current use funds that establishes an endowment to name the Arts & Lectures executive director position – now the Miller McCune Executive Director of Arts & Lectures – and it also provides current operating funds to help support programming over the next several years.

Sara Miller McCune is well known throughout the region for her philanthropy, and particularly her support for arts-related organizations.

A former trustee of the UC Santa Barbara Foundation, her many gifts to the university encompass a variety of disciplines, including programs and initiatives in the arts, humanities, social sciences and sciences.

Verena Leu Young, senior director of development for Arts & Lectures said, "Sara is a truly visionary philanthropist.

Her gift will help ensure that Arts & Lectures can maintain the programming excellence that the Santa Barbara community has come to expect of us."

Billeci added, "Sara's gift is a strong testament to the value of Arts & Lectures, and an important investment in the future of our program.

I am deeply grateful for her support."

About UC Santa Barbara

The University of California, Santa Barbara is a leading research institution that also provides a comprehensive liberal arts learning experience. Our academic community of faculty, students, and staff is characterized by a culture of interdisciplinary collaboration that is responsive to the needs of our multicultural and global society. All of this takes place within a living and learning environment like no other, as we draw inspiration from the beauty and resources of our extraordinary location at the edge of the Pacific Ocean.