UC SANTA BARBARA
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Shelly Leachman

It’s Good to Be Green

It’s not easy being green, but UC Santa Barbara sure makes it look that way. The campus with an impressive history of environmental efforts and sustainability trendsetting has now been rated third in the nation in a new ranking of the “Top 50 Green Schools.”

Online Schools Center, a web resource for prospective students researching universities, assembled its composite ranking by using several criteria. It sorted for institutions that have been included, in the last two years, in prestigious green ratings by Princeton Review, the Sierra Club, U.S. News & World Report and the Environmental Protection Agency. In addition, it required schools cited to have attained gold or silver designations from the Association for Advancing Sustainability in Higher Education, and filtered for institutions with a wealth of ongoing or pending green initiatives.

“The students, staff and faculty of UC Santa Barbara have had a longstanding commitment to reduce the energy, water and other material resource needs of our campus,” said Bruce Tiffney, dean of UCSB’s College of Creative Studies and co-chair of the Chancellor’s Sustainability Committee. “This ranking, together with similar honors, are a welcome recognition of our success in this collective endeavor and should encourage current and future members of the UCSB community to uphold and improve upon this tradition.”

Landing in the third position in the Online Schools Center roundup, behind American University in Washington D.C. and Pennsylvania’s Dickinson College, UCSB is the

top-ranked public school nationwide and first among all University of California campuses.

The new ranking further lauded UCSB for its high marks as both a Bike Friendly Community (silver rating) and a Bike Friendly University (gold rating) from the League of American Bicyclists, and for the breadth of its sustainability-centered academic offerings. The Bren School for Environmental Science & Management earned special mention, as did campus efforts around green building, energy efficiency, water conservation, recycling and sustainable food service.

Such accolades are increasingly common for the seaside campus where the modern environmental movement is said, in part, to have launched following the 1969 oil spill off the Santa Barbara coast. That same devastating event spurred formalization of UCSB's vibrant environmental studies program and inspired a never-ceasing drive for eco-leadership.

The campus is home to the nation's first-ever building to achieve a LEED "Double Platinum" sustainability rating, Bren Hall, and is the birthplace of the California Higher Education Sustainability Conference, which attracts some 1,000 attendees from 90 institutions to swap ideas and talk best practices. All of UCSB's dining commons have been certified as green businesses and the campus is playing a leadership role in multiple projects of the new UC Global Food Initiative to address food justice and sustainability.

UCSB's award-winning Water Action Plan was the premier document of its kind in the University of California system and has been repeatedly heralded as a template for other campuses to follow. The campus created its first full-time sustainability position in the 1970s; by 2013, 47 percent of academic departments were offering at least one course related to sustainability, and 45 percent had at least one faculty member engaged in sustainability research.

And those are just the highlights.

"We are home to the first LEED-certified building in the UC system and the first LEED Platinum certified laboratory facility in the country, one of the oldest environmental programs in the nation and one of the first 'Green Funds,' making it evident that the UCSB community has a strong dedication to sustainability," said Jewel Snavely, campus sustainability coordinator for UCSB. "With more than 45 environmental related student organizations on our campus, students play a strong role in driving

sustainability forward and pushing us to be a leader among universities. There is a culture of sustainability on this campus that you don’t find many other places, making it a pleasure to learn, work and live here.”

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.