Every day, the new work of scientists, scholars, and artists at UCSB becomes part of their students’ education. These teachers and researchers serve the public in other ways—such as joining multi-university collaborations to tackle problems of enormous complexity. Their ideas and expertise also enrich UCSB partnerships with state and local governments and industry. Such alliances propel new technologies and critical information into the marketplace—in fields such as energy, the environment, medicine, and communications.

- Five Nobel laureates are professors at UCSB. Numerous other faculty honors include two National Medals of Science, a National Medal of Technology, a National Humanities Medal, and a Millennium Technology Prize. Twenty-six professors are elected members of the National Academy of Sciences; 24 are members of the National Academy of Engineering; and one has been elected to the Institute of Medicine.

- As one of only 62 institutions in the American Association of Universities, UCSB stands among the elite research universities of North America.

- The campus is home to nearly 100 interdisciplinary research centers, groups, institutes, and laboratories. Of these, 12 are national research centers, eight of which the National Science Foundation funds.

- UCSB’s extramural funding comes predominately from the National Science Foundation. Reflecting its intellectual strength, UCSB is among the top 30 NSF-funded institutions.

- UCSB ranks 8th among universities nationwide that receive Department of Defense funding for basic research, and the campus is 4th in DoD support to public research universities. Researchers conduct no classified research but are developing new communications, sensing, data-storage, and materials technologies with nearly unlimited potential commercial applications.

- The campus is 2nd in the United States and 6th in the world in materials science and engineering, according to 1996–2006 rankings based on citations in scholarly publications and released in January 2007 by Science Watch, a publication of Essential Science Indicators. UCSB is 2nd in the world in citations per paper in the same period. In 1996–2005, UCSB Physics ranked 4th among U.S. universities and 9th in the world in total citations, and #1 in the world based on citations per paper. Science Watch also recently ranked UCSB #1 nationwide in Ecology/Environment and #5 in Plant and Animal Sciences.

- UCSB is home to the California NanoSystems Institute, a UCSB–UCLA research partnership established as one of the first California Institutes for Science and Innovation. It received $100 million in state funds, matched two-to-one by private industry.

- UCSB’s young assistant professors are outstanding. Twenty-four investigators have active Faculty Early Career Development (CAREER) awards—the National Science Foundation’s important grant to professors considered most likely to become academic leaders.

- The campus ranks 14th in the nation in number of faculty who receive CAREER awards and prestigious Sloan research fellowships—a notable achievement, especially considering that UCSB has fewer assistant professors than the other highly rated schools.

Cover: Ancient sea sponges (Porifera) synthesize intricate skeletal systems, as shown in this digital rendition—and are models for studying how the nervous system evolved. Molecular evolutionary biologist Todd Oakley, neuroscientist Kenneth Kosik, and colleagues have discovered genetic components in sponges that may be precursors of the first neurons and synapses. (June 2007 article: PLoS ONE at www.plosone.org/doi/pone.0000506) Image courtesy of Dr. James Weaver and Professor Daniel Morse.
At $176 million, total extramural funding in FY 2007 set an all-time UCSB record, representing an increase of about 11% over last year’s total of $159 million. As the above chart indicates, funding doubled in the decade from 1987 to 1997 and then doubled again from 1997 to 2007. Research expenditures in 2007 totaled $146 million, or 17% more than the previous year. This measure of the campus’ research activity has also doubled over the last decade.

*Includes Materials Research Laboratory and the Mitsubishi Chemical Center for Advanced Materials.

**Includes research units administered outside the college structure: Kavli Institute for Theoretical Physics, National Center for Ecological Analysis and Synthesis, UCSB Natural Reserve System, California NanoSystems Institute, Institute for Collaborative Biotechnologies, the Center for Black Studies Research, and the seven Organized Research Units.

***Includes Arts & Lectures, Davidson Library, Graduate Division, University Extension, and programs under the Vice Chancellors for Administrative Services and for Student Affairs.
Of UCSB’s $54.8 million from nonfederal sponsors in FY 2007, $23.5 million flow through to the campus as part of federal funding to other sources, such as a collaborating university. These flow-through dollars boost UCSB’s federal award total to almost $144.8, or nearly 82% of the campus’ total extramural funding.

Direct federal funding, which in 2007 increased approximately 8 percent over the previous year, amounts to nearly 70 percent of the campus’ extramural total. The National Science Foundation provided more funding to UCSB in FY 2007—over $49 million—than did any other agency. At the same time, the impact of nonfederal funding is growing. Industry dollars rose 33% and private, nonprofit funding increased 40% in FY 2007.
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