At Sacramento State, we believe that as an institution of higher education we have an obligation to do what we can to ensure our community is thriving. We know the most powerful way to achieve this goal is through education, especially one rooted in community-engaged learning and scholarship.

Sacramento State has a strong history of delivering this type of education to our students and for our community:

• We have at least 197 community-engaged courses across 139 departments.

• Our students provide 2 million hours of community service every year (not including clinical rotations or unpaid internships).

• Our faculty garner more than $20 million annually in external grants centered on engagement and outreach with community partners.

• Over 60 percent of our 250,000 alumni stay in the Sacramento region and benefit from the economic mobility this region and the University affords them.

We have plans to do even more with the launch of Sacramento State’s Anchor University Initiative.

An anchor university is more than just a place for a great education. An anchor university deliberately applies its human and intellectual resources and its place-based economic power to better the long-term welfare of the community. As an anchor university, we are committed to connecting students, faculty, and staff with the community to work on lasting solutions and improvements through inclusive civic engagement.

On the Rise: The Campaign for Sacramento State will advance our teaching, research, and service-learning prowess for the benefit of our students, our region, and the world. Become a donor to On the Rise and join our efforts to strengthen the Hornet community.

“We are, and we must always be, California’s capital university and the anchor for our community. We can and will realize our community’s dream. And we will be successful.”

– President Robert S. Nelsen
Advancing economic prosperity, innovation, and entrepreneurship

• Sac State Downtown is a hub for innovative teaching, learning, and research. Collaborative partnerships will address real-world issues and improve the quality of life in the Sacramento region. It is a place to learn, discuss, imagine, and redefine the possible, firmly cementing Sacramento State as California's capital university.

• College of Continuing Education provides an essential step-up for thousands of adult learners each year so they have a bridge to degree completion or professional development and secure their foothold in a competitive economy across the region and throughout the state.

• Carlsen Center for Innovation & Entrepreneurship is empowering the innovators, business professionals, and entrepreneurs who will drive our region forward. Through hands-on learning experiences, mentorship, tools, services, and virtual programs, we are encouraging the entrepreneurial spirit of our students and the community at large.

Nurturing a rich and vibrant cultural community

Our University is a proud part of the region’s growing creative economy. Not only are we in the midst of a cultural and social renaissance, but as California’s capital university we enrich the diversity and vibrancy of the state.

We are actively engaged in strong community partnerships—encouraging artistic innovation, advancing arts-centered teaching and learning, and nurturing a diversity of expressive voices and creative thinkers. These partnerships include:

• U-Nite! is a blowout celebration of the arts, a collaboration of creativity and scholarship between the nationally celebrated faculty of Sacramento State's College of Arts & Letters and the prestigious Crocker Art Museum.

• The Festival of the Arts is six days of creative performances, lectures, and master classes showcasing the region’s creative and cultural excellence.

• Sacramento State is involved with public art projects where our students work with the Metropolitan Arts Commission, local artists, and others in the community to create works of art that beautify public places around Sacramento.

• The University hosts numerous other cultural events that incorporate a wide variety of guest lecturers, authors, etc.

Entrepreneur cultivates community at Sacramento State’s Carlsen Center

Azriel Nicdao opened an online store as a high school senior. Nicdao, nicknamed “AZ” like the first and last letters of the alphabet, picked a product he thought would be a hit online and bought it in bulk. A delivery of white tapestries, 1,000 in all, arrived at his doorstep in Vacaville. A solo entrepreneur, he barely sold a dozen before going out of business.

“My first business venture was a failure,” said Nicdao, who was broke when he began his freshman year at Sacramento State. With his entrepreneurial spirit still intact, he turned to the Carlsen Center for Innovation & Entrepreneurship where he found a wealth of free resources and a sense of community.

“The Carlsen Center sent me down a path of curiosity and hunger to learn all I could about business development, innovation, entrepreneurship, and technology,” Nicdao said. “They brought in mentors, speakers, investors, and all types of people from the Sacramento entrepreneurial ecosystem, a complete gamechanger for any student entrepreneur or entrepreneur in general.”

With instruction and resources from the Carlsen Center’s Virtual Mastermind Cohort program, Nicdao zeroed in on his newest business. He founded Stair, a technology company creating investment data software. He brought business partners and advisers onboard and is pitching his product to investors and bankers.

“When I first entered the Carlsen Center, I was convinced I could accomplish my goals all by myself,” said Nicdao, who’s on track to graduate in 2023 with his bachelor’s degree in management information systems.

“By participating, I’ve learned to better collaborate with individuals and have discovered how much I love working with other people. The Carlsen Center cultivated a community. I will always thank the Carlsen Center for inspiring me to continue as an entrepreneur.”
Meeting the needs of our region

As an anchor university, we are committed to working with our community partners on issues that affect a variety of sectors—health and human services, business and economic development, arts and entertainment—so that our region can reach its fullest potential.

Here are some examples of how we are working with community partners to build economic prosperity in our region and improve the quality of life for all:

- **Placer Center** will be the future home of a much-needed, new satellite center for Sacramento State that will accommodate as many as 500 full-time students. The Placer Center will be the centerpiece of the 2,200-acre Placer Ranch development and will come to fruition because of a visionary partnership between the University, Placer Ranch, Inc., Placer County, Sierra College, and other regional partners.

- **Department of Gerontology’s Cardiovascular Wellness Center** provides opportunities for older adults to get together for exercise and education about keeping fit. It is part of Sacramento State’s nationally recognized gerontology program’s comprehensive efforts to meet the needs presented by older members of the community, which is expected to grow by 4 million in California by 2030.

- **Sacramento State Athletics** has a proud history of supporting, developing and enriching the sports community in our vibrant city. We showcase hundreds of sporting events throughout the year where the public is invited to see our student-athletes in action. We host summer camps where thousands of young athletes gain the skills, values of sportsmanship, and health benefits associated with their sport, and we have plans to build a state-of-the-art event center for competitive events, community gatherings, and concerts.

Please join us as a donor to On the Rise. We know when we work together to lift others up, we all rise.