

Winter 2025 Newsletter

### A MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

As the winter quarter blankets our campus with excitement for the new year, the UCI-OC Alliance members continue to illuminate its accomplishments with the warmth of our community's successes. Our members have offered guidance that extends above and beyond career advice to embrace holiday traditions and work-life integration. It is inspiring to see the surge in academic achievements that have helped us begin 2025 with much to celebrate.



This winter, our program stands as a beacon of success, cultural pride, and festive unity, proving that our university shines brightest when we come together to celebrate our collective achievements. As we toast to the new year, we raise our glasses not just to past accomplishments, but to the bright future that awaits. I hope that 2025 is a year where every member of our community reaches new heights, where our cultural pride resonates even louder, and where our academic and professional achievements continue to break barriers.

Here's to a year filled with triumph, growth, and the unbreakable spirit of the UCI-OC Alliance!

Maria Cervantes
Executive Director

### UCI-OC ALLIANCE UPDATES

### Holiday Gathering with a Purpose



A festive year-end feast was served with a spirit of giving and appreciation. The room was decorated with a sense of community, as Alliance members, deans, faculty, staff, and university leadership came together to celebrate our shared purpose.

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#### A Time of Giving



UC Irvine's Federally Qualified Health
Centers (FQHCs) are at the forefront of
combating health disparities in
underserved low-income communities.
Under the guidance of Executive
Director, **Dr. Jose Mayorga**, the FQHC
has shattered access barriers, delivering
high-quality care to a diverse patient
base.

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### **CAMPUS HIGHLIGHTS**

### Latinx Professionals in Medicine



Increasing the number of Latinx physicians is crucial for addressing healthcare disparities in the United States when only 6% of physicians identify as Latino or Latina. On October 1, the Alliance joined the School of Medicine and the Federally Qualified Health Center to bring visibility to the campus.

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## Student Connection Event



UC Irvine students are undoubtedly prepared to tackle the most pressing health challenges in our community. However, the Alliance saw an opportunity to prepare our students with the soft skills needed to complement their line of work. On November 14, a range of health students attended the student connection event.

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## UCI-OC ALLIANCE SPOTLIGHTS

Scholar Spotlight: Elijah Gabriel Guerra



Against all odds, **Elijah Gabriel Guerra**, a 3rd year criminology major at UC Irvine, has triumphed over unimaginable adversity. At 20 years old, this remarkable young man has endured more hardships than many will face in a lifetime.

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Member Spotlight: Iván Lugo Cardona



As Vice President of Global Quality,
Advanced Patient Monitoring at Becton,
Dickinson and Company, Iván Lugo
Cardona, exemplifies leadership and
community engagement as an active
founding member of the UCI-OC Alliance
and Health Affairs Committee Co-Chair.
Distinguished for his passion, grit, and
influential presence, Iván has garnered
immense respect among his peers.

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## AWARDS AND ACCOLADES

# Social Ecology's Dia de los Muertos Takes Home the Gold



UCI-OC Alliance is honored to have partnered with UC Irvine's School of Social Ecology to host the second annual Dia de los Muertos at UC Irvine. More than 1,200 people of all ages gathered at the Irvine Barclay Theater for a collaborative cultural event where the lives of lost loved ones were celebrated.

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# CONNECT WITH US



<u>LinkedIn page</u> for community engagement and announcements.

<u>LinkedIn group</u> only for UCI-OC Alliance Scholars and Alliance members.

## A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO OUR CORPORATE SUPPORTERS

The UCI-OC Alliance thanks our corporate partners for their support and dedication to our students!



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