Fostering student engagement is central to creating a sense of community and a rich educational experience outside of the classroom. Student leaders and student affairs staff strive to develop meaningful opportunities for student involvement, investment and engagement at UC San Diego.

In this spirit Student Affairs has created a special opportunity to collaborate and engage in this important community-building work for our students. Thanks to the generosity of some of UC San Diego’s strongest supporters and advocates, parents and family members, Student Affairs has a fund source for innovative programming by or for students.

Students, staff, and faculty interested in obtaining one-time funding for a project or program are encouraged to submit a proposal to the Parent and Family Programs Innovation and Engagement Fund in the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs. Proposals should describe the project or program in detail, its impact on and benefit for undergraduate and or graduate students at UC San Diego, how the project or program exemplifies the Vice Chancellor – Student Affairs’ criteria (see below), cost estimate for this one-time programmatic funding, and how program and learning outcomes will be assessed. Proposals must be submitted one quarter in advance by the following deadlines:

- Welcome Week/Fall Quarter Programs – August 1, 2012
- Winter Quarter Programs – November 1, 2012
- Spring Quarter Programs – February 1, 2013

Proposals should demonstrate the following characteristics:

- High visibility and student appeal
- A fostering of student learning
- An assessment plan to measure the program’s effectiveness
- A potential to create new, ongoing community building initiatives at UC San Diego
- Student involvement in the project or program planning

Special consideration will be given to projects that advance overarching Student Affairs priorities:

- Creating a sense of community and belonging
- Improving student mental health and well-being
- Action based commitment to diversity and social justice

Projects are encouraged to demonstrate a strong association with the Student Affairs strategic goals:

1. Prepare, attract and enroll students of the highest capability who are representative of the diversity of the people of California.
2. Create a supportive environment that facilitates wellness, retention, intellectual growth and graduation of all students.

3. Develop programs, services, and environments to build a welcoming and inclusive community that creates a sense of safety and belonging for all students.

4. Provide experiences that foster self discovery and develop the personal, academic, and professional skills and relationships needed for a successful transition into diverse and global communities.

5. Engage students, parents and family members, alumni, and UC San Diego and external community members in experiences that ignite a sense of pride, ownership and personal investment in the ongoing success of UC San Diego.

The Parent & Family Funds for Innovative Student Programming will not be used for operating costs, on-going expenses, or existing programs. Awards will not exceed the maximum amount of $2,500, although some exceptions may apply. You may contact Cynthia Davalos for additional information regarding larger funding proposals.

To apply, please download the application instructions document at the VCSA homepage, http://vcsa.ucsd.edu.

Note: As the UC San Diego Parent & Family Development Council becomes established, parent members of this leadership and philanthropic group will assist in making recommendations to the Vice Chancellor for the awarding of a portion of these funds.