

CAPITOL OFFICE
STATE CAPITOL
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814
TEL (916) 651-4015
FAX (916) 651-4915

DISTRICT OFFICE
2105 S. BASCOM AVE.
SUITE 154
CAMPBELL, CA 95008
TEL (408) 558-1295
FAX (408) 558-1296

SENATOR.CORTESE@SENATE.CA.GOV
WWW.SENATE.CA.GOV/CORTESE

California State Senate

SENATOR
DAVE CORTESE
FIFTEENTH SENATE DISTRICT



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JUDICIARY, LABOR &
TRANSPORTATION

October 20, 2021

UC President Michael Drake
Office of the President
University of California
1111 Franklin St., 12th Floor
Oakland, CA 94607

Dear President Drake,

I see that the California Public Employment Relations Board (PERB) has verified that a majority of Student Researchers at the University of California (UC) have chosen to form a union with Student Researchers United-UAW.

Student Researchers are essential drivers of UC's research mission. They perform experiments, write research grant proposals, and generate creative ideas that push the boundaries of the fields they work in. Student Researchers help UC lead U.S. universities in winning patents and their hard work and dedication is a major reason why UC received \$3.7 Billion in federal research contract and grant revenue in fiscal year 2020. Student Researchers United will improve the lives of Student Researchers, and that will no doubt enhance the quality of research produced at UC.

SB 201 corrected a decades-long injustice that UC Student Researchers did not have the right under the Higher Education Employer-Employee Relations Act (HEERA) to form a union because they were considered students, not employees. With the passage and signing of SB 201 the California Legislature and Governor Brown joined in extending collective bargaining rights to all UC Student Researchers.

As such, I write in support of Student Researchers United-UAW as they seek recognition from UC.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Dave Cortese".

Senator Dave Cortese
State Senate District 15