**Welcome Message to Students**

Dear Students:

On behalf of our UC Santa Barbara community, it brings me great joy to welcome our new and returning students to the 2015-16 academic year. We are thrilled to have you with us on campus, and we are excited to help nurture your academic strengths, encourage your personal growth, and inspire your creativity.

As students, you are the cornerstone of our campus community and our partners in advancing UC Santa Barbara’s stature as a preeminent world-class research university. Our campus continually earns top rankings in many national and international reports, in terms of our academic quality, diversity, and environmental sustainability. Just this month, our campus was once again ranked among the Top 10 public universities in the country by U.S. News & World Report. And last month, Times Higher Education published an article ranking UC Santa Barbara No. 7 worldwide for producing Nobel laureates in the 21st century. Six of our faculty members have won Nobel Prizes, and one of our alumnae is also among the distinguished roster of Nobel laureates.

As our returning students already know, learning at UC Santa Barbara extends far beyond the classroom. We also learn a great deal from each other. We encourage our students — and all members of our academic community — to be full participants in the free and open exchange of ideas and viewpoints that characterizes our university. We commit ourselves to upholding the values we cherish as an academic institution, and to fostering an atmosphere that is respectful, supportive, and welcoming to all. The diversity of our backgrounds, talents, and perspectives will continue to enrich us all as we live and learn together.

There are countless ways for you to get involved and make connections with each other, such as through research and creative projects, student government, campus organizations, intercollegiate athletics and intramural sports, volunteer work in our community, and much more. I encourage you to take advantage of all that UC Santa Barbara has to offer during your time here.

As our campus is closely connected with our surrounding neighborhoods, I also encourage you to engage with our community as good neighbors and good stewards.

We are proud to have you as part of our UC Santa Barbara family, and my wife, Dilling, and I look forward to seeing you on campus.

Sincerely,

Henry T. Yang

Chancellor