Project proposals are a primary part of the selection criteria for admission to the Professors for the Future program. The project idea or activity must seek to enhance the experience of other UC Davis graduate students or postdoctoral scholars. The purpose of the project is to provide PFTF fellows with an opportunity to develop communication and leadership skills and to explore the university beyond the boundaries of their disciplinary areas of interest. PFTF encourages students and scholars to be venturesome and creative in the designing of project ideas, but also encourages them to consider building on the projects of past fellows where appropriate.

For examples of past projects, visit the “Fellows” section: gradstudies.ucdavis.edu/pftf/fellows.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:

Teresa Dillinger, Ph.D.
Manager, Professional Development Programs
tdillinger@ucdavis.edu
(530) 752-7566

JP Delplanque, Ph.D.
Associate Dean for Graduate Students
delplanque@ucdavis.edu
(530) 752-2050

To nominate a Ph.D. candidate or postdoctoral scholar or to apply to the PFTF program visit: gradstudies.ucdavis.edu/pftf

UC DAVIS GRADUATE STUDIES

250 Mrak Hall
University of California, Davis
Davis, CA 95616
gradstudies.ucdavis.edu

– CAROLINE KURTZ, Ph.D., Nutrition
Fellows are selected from nominations by faculty, administrators, fellow graduate students or postdoctoral scholars based on a written application and interview process that demonstrates:

• A desire to contribute to graduate education and/or postdoctoral training by designing and completing a project beneficial to other students and scholars.
• Potential for leadership and academic service.
• Commitment to the academy and scholarly pursuits.
• Completion of the Ph.D. qualifying examination.
• Current status as a postdoctoral scholar or enrolled graduate student.

Professors for the Future (PFTF) is a year-long competitive fellowship program designed to recognize and develop the leadership skills of outstanding doctoral students and postdoctoral scholars who have demonstrated their commitment to professionalism, integrity and academic service. This unique program, sponsored by Graduate Studies, focuses on the future challenges of graduate education as well as postdoctoral training and the academy. PFTF is designed to prepare participants for an increasingly competitive marketplace and a rapidly changing university environment. Since its inception in 1992, over 250 doctoral students and postdoctoral scholars have completed the program.

PROGRAM BENEFITS
The PFTF program enhances graduate education and postdoctoral training in several ways:

• PFTF fellows work on projects of their own design to enhance the graduate or postdoctoral experience and professional development of their colleagues. These projects are then presented at an end-of-year colloquium, open to all interested members of the university.
• All fellows receive formal training in teaching methods and course design through either the Seminar on College Teaching or self-selected workshops provided by the Center for Educational Effectiveness.
• PFTF fellows participate in a seminar course titled “Ethics and Professionalism in the University.”
• Fellows meet regularly for round-table panel discussions to promote the participants’ professional development, intellectual growth and leadership skills.
• Each fellow receives a $3,000 stipend.

FELLOWSHIP SELECTION AND ELIGIBILITY
Now that I’m actually a professor, I can appreciate the value of better preparing students for such a career.

– EUGENE CORDERO, Ph.D., Atmospheric Science

I recently accepted an assistant professor job offer from Southern Illinois, and I know the skills and information that I developed as a PFTF fellow certainly helped.

– PAUL McPHERRON, Ph.D., Linguistics