

Mentorship Is the Key to Building a Continuum of Learning and Experiences

All of us throughout our careers can point to a mentor or a group of mentors who have been instrumental to our success. We know the value of working closely with individuals who can guide us through their own lived experiences. We see, even now, the ways that a mentor's guidance continues to inform our professional and personal growth long after the direct impact of that relationship.

For Graduate Studies, creating more mentorship opportunities for our graduate students remains a priority. Mentorship is a priceless investment in student and institutional success.

Graduate Studies already offers several mentorship programs for UC Davis faculty and graduate students, such as our [Graduate Mentoring Initiative](#). Until now, however, our mentorship programs have focused on campus-level engagement. We are missing the opportunity to imbed lifelong learning, networking and professional development into our students' academic journeys by connecting them to our extensive alumni network.

We want to change that.

With a global network of more than 80,000 UC Davis graduate alumni, Graduate Studies hopes to build a strong foundation of mentorship. This foundation will reach far beyond campus. Our current graduate students will be able to thrive even more. And when these students enter the next phase of their lives as alumni, hopefully they do so with the expectation (and the desire) to give back to the generations of students who will follow them as mentors themselves.

More than ever, graduate education must be a continuum of learning and experiences that stretches from the classroom to the community. I strongly believe that mentorship is one of the best ways to ensure that continuum, strengthening our UC Davis graduate education landscape that continues to be one of the best in the world.



Jean-Pierre Delplanque
Vice Provost and Dean of Graduate Studies