

UCSD Honored by the Work-Life Coalition of San Diego for setting an example in work-life policies and programs

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The University of California, San Diego received two awards at the fourth annual Leaders in Work-Life Awards Program sponsored by the Work-Life Coalition of San Diego. The awards program recognizes San Diego employers who are setting an example in work-life policies and programs.

The first award was presented to UCSD for its comprehensive benefits programs. UCSD provides 13 of the 15 benefits categories assessed in a survey conducted by the Work-Life Coalition of San Diego and TRIAD, an Escondido-based research group.

These benefits categories include general health and welfare benefits, the Faculty and Staff Assistance Program, child care, flexible work-time options, tuition reimbursement, domestic partners benefits, mentorship program, and elder care assistance, including resources and referrals.

The second award, Leadership in Work-Life Policies Best by Size, Over 500 Employees Public Sector, was presented to UCSD for its overall work-life programs and policies. UCSD had 47 of the 52 work-life elements in the survey including those noted in the above benefits category award.

Additional elements in this category include brown bag seminars; career development programs; wellness, which encompasses discount on health and/or on-site fitness options, preventive care programs, violence in the workplace programs, and conflict resolution; transportation reimbursement, including the Federal Pre-Tax Parking and Vanpooling Program, and workplace culture which encompasses areas such as a Service Awards Program, New Employee Orientation, Retirement and Financial Planning, community activities, and a policy statement or other communications to employees regarding the organization's commitment to work-life balance.

More than 100 employers, media representatives and others attended the Leaders in Work-Life Awards Program. Among participants from UCSD were Jackie Edwards, Wilma Westmoreland and Jo Morales, benefits; Kim Ayoub, Temporary Employment Services (TES); Trudy Campbell, Early Childhood Education Center; Paula Doss and Jorge Rios, Equal Opportunity and Staff Affirmative Action; Jonnie Craig-Winston, Work-Life Coalition of San Diego board member, and Carol Walker, Policy Development and Quality of Work-Life.

The Work-Life Coalition of San Diego, a non-profit organization, is the only work-life organization in San Diego County. It was initially organized to address childcare issues, but has expanded, according to Craig-Winston, to address the broader issues of the employee's work-life. It sponsors the Leaders in Work-Life Awards to promote the benefits of employer-sponsored work-life programs, policies and services.

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