

Lobbying 101: How to Network for a Cause – Addendum

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SPEAKERS

Ian Daly, Mike Levin

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Ian Daly 00:05

Hello and welcome to a special addendum to Triton Tools and Tidbits. Mike Levin heard about the episode that we did on Alternative Breaks, and he decided that he had a message for UC San Diego students. So here he is Representative Mike Levin.

Mike Levin 00:22

I'm Representative Mike Levin representing California's 49th Congressional District, which includes North County, San Diego, South Orange County, and all the Triton changemakers from the University of California, San Diego. I know that you recently heard about students from the Alternative Breaks program, who visited my office back when we could still meet in person. So, I wanted to follow up and let you know that it's my honor to represent and serve UC San Diego students. And I encourage you to participate in the UC San Diego Associated Student elections from 18 to 22. I know that you can vote easily on Triton Links, so there should be no excuses.

Mike Levin 00:58

We are living in an extremely interesting time. What action steps can students take if they want to see change? Well, UC San Diego students are changemakers. And there are always things that you can do to foster that change. First and foremost, you can vote. Of course, it's important to vote in the national elections, but it often has an even greater impact on your community to vote in state, local, and even student government elections. You can also get involved. Student Organizations can attract people who are also passionate about your interests. And together, you'll have a much stronger voice than you might as an individual. You should always use your voice. For example, students on UC San Diego's Alternative Breaks visit my office each year, and it's a great opportunity for me to hear directly from you.

Mike Levin 01:47

I care deeply about the student experience and what I can do to advocate for your priorities. That being said, you don't necessarily have to travel to Washington DC to make your voice heard. You can also

contact my offices in Oceanside or Dana Point to share your thoughts, priorities or even to get help with issues involving federal agencies like the Department of Education. We read and respond to every message we receive. So, I encourage you to write in. Why do student government elections matter? Student government absolutely matters. Many congressional representatives, including me, were involved in student government. And well, I learned a lot in my classes, I learned probably even more useful skills from being involved in student government, even if you're a part aren't participating.

Mike Levin 02:32

As an elected student representative voting and campus elections matter. It determines how your fees will be used, how the campus will be built, and how policies will be made. That's the promise of representative democracy. Another reason that student government at UC San Diego matters is because it has the power to influence the entire UC system. And in turn, the UC system influence influences the entire state, you can help people you don't even know by participating in your Student Government.

Mike Levin 03:00

Finally, engaging with your student government is a great way to learn about how decisions are made. The way that UC San Diego Student Government works is, in many ways, a microcosm of how the entire government works. And the opportunity to be involved in creating change can be an invaluable skill for understanding how to create a lasting change on a larger scale.

Mike Levin 03:20

With COVID-19, we're in the midst of unprecedented times, what lessons should we be learning from the pandemic? Well, one of the greatest lessons we can learn from the pandemic is the importance of listening to scientists and the experts. We need to listen to the scientists if we want to have a chance of beating another crisis. And that's climate change. The science is clear. If we don't take aggressive action to change the way we live and reduce greenhouse gas emissions we will suffer the worst effects of climate change, such as worsening wildfires, drought, food and water insecurity, and so much more.

Mike Levin 03:54

We should use this opportunity to reevaluate our lives and how we want to rebuild. For example, the UC system is committed to achieving net-zero greenhouse gases from its buildings and vehicle fleet by 2025. That's the kind of aggressive action that we must fight for across the country. And it's your generation that is going to lead the way.

Mike Levin 04:13

What do I love about UC San Diego? Well, there are so many things that I love about your amazing campus. But I'm particularly proud of the world-class research that takes place on campus and drives change across the world. When I talk to my colleagues in Washington, I am constantly bragging about the amazing work being done by researchers at UCSD. And I'll continue to do that. So, keep making us proud Tritons

Ian Daly 04:38

Thank you very much to Representative Mike Levin. And please do go vote on Triton Link at students@ucsd.edu. Thank you