

UC San Diego Climbs 8 Spots as Top College in Peace Corps Rankings

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The University of California, San Diego climbed eight spots on the annual list of "Peace Corps Top Colleges and Universities," released today. With 67 alumni currently serving as Peace Corps volunteers, UC San Diego ranks 14th among all large universities, up from 22nd last year. UC San Diego and the Peace Corps, both turning 50 this year, have partnered to bring 678 UC San Diego alumni as volunteers.

"During our milestone 50th Anniversary year, it's an honor to have the university's legacy of community service recognized by the Peace Corps," said Chancellor Marye Anne Fox. "We are committed to advancing the health and wellbeing of our community and world through education, research, patient care, community engagement and public service."

The contributions of UC San Diego's students to local, national and global communities on issues range from poverty to homelessness and environmental justice -- a commitment recognized by the *Washington Monthly*, which ranked UC San Diego the top college in the nation according to rankings measuring "what colleges are doing for the country."

Daniel Pavitt is one of the 67 UC San Diego grads currently serving overseas. A 2010 graduate with a degree in communications and a four-year member of the men's soccer team, Pavitt is teaching English in Cape Verde, an island nation off the western coast of Africa. "Primarily, I want to help those who are less fortunate. Accompanying that feeling is my love for traveling, which is something in my opinion that can really refine any person into who they want to be," Pavitt said.

"For the last 50 years, colleges and universities across our country have been an integral part of the Peace Corps family, from developing young leaders, to hosting trainings and teaching the importance of lifelong learning," said Peace Corps Director Aaron S. Williams. "In 1961, President Kennedy created the Peace Corps in response to the passion of university students, and today we continue to be inspired by the enthusiasm, dedication and creativity of the thousands of Americans now serving overseas. Colleges instill a commitment to public service among their students and share our belief that, together, we can work to make the world a better place."

California has always been a top producer of Peace Corps volunteers. More Californians have served in the Peace Corps, in fact, than any other state. With 1,134 Californians currently serving and more than 27,000 since 1961, California has more than twice as many as the nearest state, New York. To access all the rankings, please [click here](#).

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