

## Endowed chairs named in honor of Richard and Rita Atkinson

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### ENDOWED CHAIRS NAMED IN HONOR OF RICHARD AND RITA ATKINSON

Richard C. Atkinson, University of California president, and his wife, Rita Atkinson, will be honored by the University of California, San Diego, with the establishment of two endowed faculty chairs in their names.

Atkinson served as chancellor of the San Diego campus for 15 years prior to being appointed to the UC presidency in 1995. Rita Atkinson holds a Ph.D. in psychology and is coauthor with her husband of the textbook, "Introduction to Psychology."

A total \$560,000 has been raised toward the goal of \$700,000 required to fund the two chairs, and additional donations currently are being accepted. The endowment eventually will support the research and teaching activities of the faculty members selected as chair holders.

"This is a richly deserved honor," said Malin Burnham, a trustee of the UC San Diego Foundation. "Under Dick's leadership, UCSD blossomed into a first rate research university reflecting so positively on San Diego and the region. During their 15 years here, Dick and Rita saw student enrollment and the numbers of faculty and staff increase by more than 60 percent, construction costing \$850 million was completed, and the annual budget almost tripled."

Trustee Harry Gruber observed, "As a scientist, especially a San Diego based scientist, I am very grateful to Dick Atkinson for what took place here. At the end of his tenure, UCSD ranked 10th in the nation among all research universities for the quality of its graduate programs and faculty. What this ultimately means for San Diego is a \$1 billion annual impact on the local economy, and more than a hundred new companies spun off by faculty and campus research."

During his tenure as UCSD Chancellor, Atkinson championed the establishment of endowed chairs as an important mechanism for recruiting and retaining top quality faculty and supporting major research. Since the first chair was established in 1981, the number of endowed chairs has grown to 61 in 1997.

The Atkinsons and donors to the endowed chairs will be honored at a San Diego reception during which a commemorative piece listing donors will be presented. Persons interested in participating in the establishment of this tribute to the Atkinsons may contact the UCSD Development Office at 534-1610 for further information.

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