



UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA MERCED

ARCS® Foundation Northern California Chapter is exceptionally proud to welcome **University of California, Merced** as the newest ARCS Foundation university partner! Following a rigorous approval process over the past many months, UC Merced joins six other top research universities in Northern California and 50 other leading research institutions in the country.

Since its founding 16 years ago in 2005, UC Merced has experienced a meteoric rise, reflecting the vision, the resources, and the support of the Regents of the University of California, the governing body of arguably the best public university system in the United States. UC Merced has emerged as a leading STEM research university ranking 93rd of all U.S. universities in the recent US News and World Report 2022 rankings, and 38th of U.S. public universities. *Times Higher Education Young University Rankings* ranked **UC Merced as No. 3 among United States universities younger than 50 years**. The top two (George Mason University and Rush University) are about to “age out” of being “young” universities as each became independent or was founded in 1972, whereas UC Merced was founded in 2005.

While UC Merced is eminently qualified to be an ARCS partner based on its academics and research alone, it brings to ARCS, and to the Northern California Chapter, an additional important characteristic: **it has the most diverse student body of any University of California campus**. 73% of its undergraduate students are first in their family to go to college as are 48% of its graduate students; and 53% of its students are Hispanic.

With UC Merced as our partner, ARCS NCC has the opportunity and privilege to support a new and diverse cohort of qualified scholars who will be part of the changing face of science in America.



“We are honored to be named an ARCS partner,” said **Chancellor Juan Sánchez Muñoz**. “ARCS’ selection of UC Merced demonstrates the organization’s confidence in our emergence as a preeminent national research institution. We look forward to working with the Northern California chapter in supporting and preparing future generations of scientific, engineering and medical leaders.”