



First Generation Initiative

News, Events & Updates

Hey Slugs! This February is Black History Month. This week, we have featured notable leaders in the UCSC community, along with engaging virtual activities and events centered around BIPOC voices for you all to participate in. As always, we encourage you to check out all of our social media and visit our website to view some awesome remote learning tips in one easy click below!

[Visit Our Website!](#)

Alumni Spotlight



First-Gen Alumni: Darrick Smith (Oakes, sociology '96)

Darrick is currently an assistant professor of educational leadership at the University of San Francisco. In 1992, Darrick Smith graduated from high school. In that same year, his hometown of Oakland had 175 homicides.

At that time, the social problems in his city were making international headlines.

Smith made up his mind to do something about this grim statistic. In his sophomore year, he dedicated his attention to exploring solutions to the bloodshed and desperation that had plagued what he calls his "beautiful and powerful city".

[Read More](#)

Student Engagement

UC President Michael V. Drake reflects on the Black workers, scholars, artists and activists who have propelled the University of California — and the world — forward, and the work that remains to be done to achieve our ideals of equality, inclusion and justice.

Read the Full Article Below.



[Read More](#)

Upcoming Events



[Google Form](#)

UCSC first-gen undergraduate students! We are seeking your input...

Planning is just now beginning for a UC systemwide first-gen conference to be held virtually in spring 2021. This will be the first-ever, first-generation conference focused on sharing the undergraduate experience across the UC campuses. It is our hope that both first-gen and continuing-gen undergraduate students across the UC System will attend this *free* virtual event. Complete the Google form attached so that we know what you want to see at this event!

Attend the 37th Annual MLK Convocation



Community Partners:



Mariame Kaba is an organizer, author, educator, curator, and prison industrial complex abolitionist who is active in movements for racial, gender, and transformative justice. Kaba has a prolific history in organizing that is centered on supporting and empowering marginalized communities in honoring the past and building for future change.

She is the founder and director of Project NIA, a grassroots organization with a vision to end youth incarceration, a member of the Movement for Black Lives Policy Table, and has cofounded countless organizations that are centered on empowerment and liberatory education.

Kaba is the author of *Missing Daddy*, and her forthcoming book, *We Do This 'Til We Free Us: Abolitionist Organizing and Transforming Justice*, will be published this month.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2021

VIRTUAL ON ZOOM | EVENT STARTS AT 5:30 P.M.

REGISTER FOR THE CONVOCATION [HERE](#).

Questions? Contact the UC Santa Cruz Special Events Office at (831) 459-5003 or speialevents@ucsc.edu.

This year's virtual MLK Convocation features a conversation between prison abolition activist Mariame Kaba and Professor Gina Dent. Registration is free for all students!

The event will be held on February 12th from 5:30 pm to 7:00 pm. Register below!

[Register Here](#)



[Registration Link](#)

Attend the Practical Activism Conference with Angela Davis

Practical Activism will be holding its 18th annual day-long conference on **Saturday, February 27th, 2021** virtually on Zoom. The conference is coordinated and led by students from College Nine and College Ten, and aims to further local and global change in our community by representing diverse perspectives on a variety of social justice issues. Opening this year's conference will be a moderated discussion with **Dr. Angela Davis**. Attendees will have the opportunity to learn about several social-justice related topics in student-organized zoom workshops. The conference will be closed by a spoken-word performance from artist, Gina Loring. Registration links coming soon!

Attend the STARS (Services for Transfer and Re-Entry Students) Winter Drop-ins



WINTER 2021 DROP-IN HOURS
MONDAY THRU THURSDAY
9 AM TO 12 PM AND 3 PM TO 6 PM



MARIE SOSA JANIE GARZA JEYSON ALDANA CAMERON DANIEL
 EMAIL US AT STARPEER@UCSC.EDU
 OR SEND A CHAT THROUGH
 GOOGLE HANGOUTS TO
 "STARS TRANSITION MENTORS"
 TO CONNECT WITH A PEER MENTOR

STARS is a great resources for Transfer and Re-entry students. STARS encourages transfer and re-entry students to chat with their Transition Mentors about time management, self-advocacy, important dates and deadlines, and more.

Winter Drop- In Hours: Monday-Thursday from 3-6 pm

Email: starpeer@ucsc.edu

[More Info](#)



ABOLITIONIST FEMINISMS: BETH RICHIE, ERICA MEINERS, AND SONYA CLARK, FEBRUARY 23, 2021

Visualizing Abolition is a series of online events organized by Professor Gina Dent, and Dr. Rachel Nelson. The events feature artists, activists, and scholars united by their commitment to the vital struggle for prison abolition.

[Register Here](#)

Join in conversation with Beth Richie, University of Illinois, Chicago, Erica Meiners, Northeastern Illinois University, and Soyna Clark, Amherst College, Western Massachusetts, join us for a conversation on feminist–queer, anti-capitalist, grassroots, and women of color—organizing and abolition for the next Visualizing Abolition event.

Held on February 23rd at 4:00 pm

We Want to Hear Your Story!

Calling all First Generation Students and First Generation Supporters

If you are a first generation student or not we want to hear from you! If you would like to be featured on our Instagram, Facebook, and Twitter send in a picture of



yourself and a paragraph talking about either what it means to be a first generation student to you or why you support first generation students. DM us your picture and paragraph @ucscfirstgen to be featured. We are also looking for first gen students that we can feature on our website to tell their stories about being first generation students and what it means to them. If you would like to be featured on the website fill out the google form attached.

[Google Form](#)

First Generation Initiative

UC Santa Cruz | Kresge College Academic West Building, Suite 153

Santa Cruz, 95064

Email: firstgen@ucsc.edu

Join our initiative: <https://tinyurl.com/y5aj7jsp>

