

CONFERENCE OVERVIEW

The 9th annual University of California Berkeley Next Opportunity at Work (NOW) Conference for Staff Career Development was held virtually on June 3, 2021. The conference theme, “*Innovate, Collaborate, Grow!*” was chosen with the goal of inspiring employees during these challenging and ever-changing times to grow their skills, network, and career at the UC. Our theme also aligned with the greater campus goal of supporting a workforce that is more agile, results driven, engaged, and focused on strengthening collaborative partnerships among employees. We hosted over 1,300 staff from UC Berkeley and across the UC system, providing a truly professional, full day conference experience to support their career development.

Conference at a Glance:



**2 Keynote
Speakers**

Featuring Aiko
Betha and Janet
Napolitano



**21 Breakout
Sessions**

3 rounds of seven 75-
minute concurrent
session options



**174 1:1 Coaching
Sessions**

25-minute 1:1
sessions with a career
coach or recruiter



**4 Networking
Activities**

Facilitated networking
allowed the attendees to
connect with colleagues



**4 Activity
Breaks**

Wellness breaks
throughout the day to
engage participants

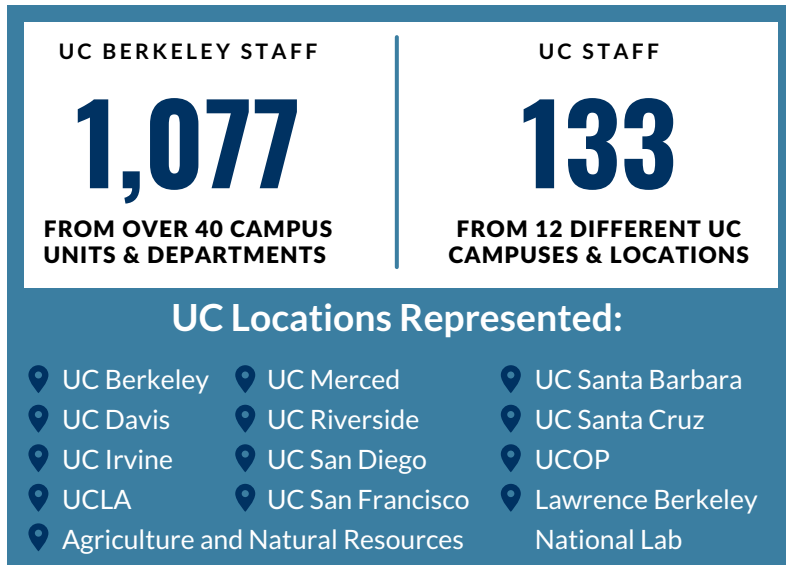
[View the full conference agenda, session descriptions/recordings, and presenters on our website.](#)

AREAS OF INNOVATION

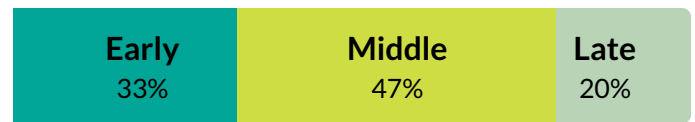
The planning committee was able to maximize what was learned from last year's conference in order to:

- expand the conference by opening a number of seats to staff across the UC system,
- create 5 focus tracks of carefully curated sessions based on learning interests and aligned with the conference theme- *Innovate, Collaborate, Grow!*,
- increase total available 1:1 coaching sessions with recruiters and career coaches by 26%,
- partner with campus vendor ACSU Events Services, enhancing AV/IT support,
- improve operational efficiencies resulting in cost reductions of over \$17K, and
- incorporate 4 networking activities for staff to connect for a more rewarding experience.

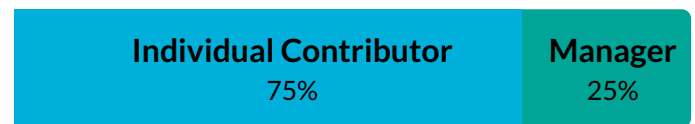
ABOUT THE ATTENDEES



Stage in overall career:



Current role type:

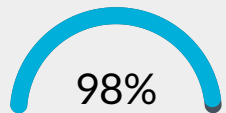


Years working on campus:

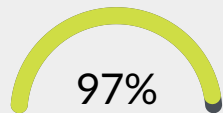


EVALUATION HIGHLIGHTS

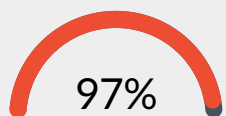
Data generated based on 325 evaluation submissions from attendees, representing about quarter of the total attendees.



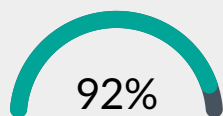
felt conference was well organized.



found value in attending the conference.



encourage colleagues to attend the conference.



enjoyed the virtual conference.

Participant Testimonials:

- “ After attending the conference I feel like a new person! The conference put a lot of things into perspective that will help me grow, and I learned techniques that I will implement in my daily life. This is truly one of the best conferences I have attended!
- “ The sessions I attended were very thoughtful and inspiring. I wanted to tell colleagues: You need to attend this session because it was so good!
- “ I appreciate that the presenters for the breakout sessions are UC employees which makes their presentation of concepts and stories to us more relatable and applicable to our work environment.
- “ Love this conference. I am finishing up my second year at Cal and this is one of the most impactful things we do.

MORE WAYS TO INNOVATE, COLLABORATE, & GROW!

The People & Organization Development team within UC Berkeley People & Culture offers many career development programs. Throughout the year, we offer:

- NOW Conference session recordings and materials posted on the [NOW Conference website](#).
- Extended learning from the NOW Conference through the [NOW Encore Series](#).
- Ongoing access to 1:1 confidential [career coaching](#) for UC Berkeley staff.
- Many additional career development workshops and resources via the [grow.berkeley.edu website](#).

The NOW Conference planning committee is already preparing for next year's conference!
We hope to see you there!