

## BIRST - Office of Campus Climate and Compliance

BIRST (Bias Incident Response Team) is a University-wide team that receives information about bias incidents from individuals who have been a target of, or witnessed, an act of bias. The role of the BIRST Team is to provide an opportunity for community members to have their voices heard, to facilitate anti-bias education, and to raise issues to appropriate campus entities. Please visit [birst.ucmerced.edu](http://birst.ucmerced.edu) for more information.

## Interim Protest Policy

As of January 9th, 2018, an *Interim Policy on Expressive Activities and Assembly* has been released and can be found here [policies.ucmerced.edu](http://policies.ucmerced.edu) on the UC Merced policy webpage. For public feedback and conversation pertaining to these these policies, the Town Hall will take place on **March 19th** from **4-5:30pm** in **KL 217**. If you are interested in providing suggestions or feedback, please attend. Contact: Luanna Putney ([lputney@ucmerced.edu](mailto:lputney@ucmerced.edu))

## Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Grant

The Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Grant proposal program seeks to create and sustain a campus environment in which all UC Merced students, staff, and faculty feel respected, included and valued. The program is open to all students, staff, and faculty. Selected grants can be funded to an annual maximum of \$5,000. Please visit [diversity.ucmerced.edu/application-process](http://diversity.ucmerced.edu/application-process) to submit an application by **March 5th, 2018 by 5pm**.

## Free Speech Update

On Feb. 13th, Dean of Berkeley Law Erwin Chemerinsky shared his expertise of constitutional law and free speech legality with the UC Merced campus community. Many students, staff, and faculty were present at the group forum, in addition to a student panel, moderated by Professor Nella Van Dyke. Both the panel and the audience asked dynamic questions of Dean Chemerinsky. [chancellor.ucmerced.edu/news/2018/berkeley-law-dean-speaks-free-speech](http://chancellor.ucmerced.edu/news/2018/berkeley-law-dean-speaks-free-speech)

## Cultural Spaces Update

During the month of February, *Crucial Conversations* surrounding cultural spaces here at UC Merced occurred in various forms. The Dean of Students Office, in collaboration with the Social Justice Initiatives Center, collected thoughts and ideas from the campus community through various channels including a town hall, individual meetings, and several focus groups with students, staff, and faculty. The next phase of *Crucial Conversations* consists of the following:

- An online survey open from March 1st until **April 6th**. We highly encourage all students, staff, and faculty to fill out this survey with their insight: [ucmerced.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_3a2RPR5AzBG1eMI](http://ucmerced.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_3a2RPR5AzBG1eMI)
- The final town hall will be held on **April 17th** from **5:30-7:30pm** in **COB 105**. Here, we will share the macro ideas from the collection of thoughts and feedback from the campus community.

It is important to keep in mind the goal of *Crucial Conversations*, to submit a fully vetted proposal to the Vice Chancellor by May 1st, to establish more cultural spaces at UC Merced.