

From: Dean and Vice Provost of Graduate Education Brian Kite <Dean_DGE@bp.e.ucla.edu>

Sent: Friday, May 8, 2026 2:31 PM

Subject: Celebrating Excellence in Graduate Student Mentoring

Announcing the 2026 Faculty Award for Excellence in Graduate Student Mentoring recipients.



To: Administrative Officers, Deans, Department Chairs, Directors, Faculty, Graduate and Professional Students, Vice Chancellors and Vice Provosts

Dear Colleagues:

One of the most important parts of graduate education happens through mentoring. Great faculty mentors help students develop as scholars, artists, researchers and professionals. They challenge students, support them through difficult moments, help them see new possibilities, and remind them that they belong in the work they are doing.

Each year, the UCLA Division of Graduate Education recognizes this essential work through the [Faculty Award for Excellence in Graduate Student Mentoring](#). I am pleased to announce the 2026 award recipients, who were selected from a highly competitive pool of outstanding nominations.

2026 Award Recipients

Dr. Onyebuchi Arah, Professor of Epidemiology

Professor Arah is recognized for his deeply intentional, mentee-centered approach to mentoring. He supports students across all stages of their academic and professional development with thoughtfulness, generosity and care. His mentees describe his impact as transformative and note his sustained commitment well beyond formal advising.

Dr. Neil Garg, Distinguished Professor of Chemistry and Biochemistry

Professor Garg integrates mentorship into every aspect of his research and teaching. His students describe an inclusive lab culture grounded in high expectations, intellectual curiosity and steady support. Through that environment, he prepares students to become confident, independent scientists and future mentors themselves.

Dr. Pamela Yeh, Associate Professor of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology

Professor Yeh is known for her personalized, future-focused mentorship and her strong commitment to equity and advocacy. Her students emphasize the role she has played in helping them chart meaningful career paths, persevere through challenges and imagine long-term success.

The Division of Graduate Education honored the nominees and awardees at a ceremony on Wednesday, April 29, 2026, at the California NanoSystems Institute.

Thank you to everyone who submitted nominations and helped us recognize the extraordinary mentoring taking place across UCLA. Most of all, congratulations to Professors Arah, Garg and Yeh. Thank you for the care, commitment and generosity you bring to UCLA graduate students.

Sincerely,

Brian Kite

Dean and Vice Provost of Graduate Education

The UCLA logo is centered within a solid blue rectangular bar at the bottom of the page. The letters "UCLA" are rendered in a white, bold, sans-serif font.

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