
Richard Atkinson awarded Presidential Medal

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UC President Emeritus Richard Atkinson

University of California President Mark G. Yudof has awarded the UC Presidential Medal to President Emeritus Richard C. Atkinson, the 17th president of the University of California and former chancellor of UC San Diego.













"From his years at the National Science Foundation to his leadership at the University of California, Richard has re-defined the relationship between academia and industry, re-shaped the field of university administration and helped revolutionize scholarly disciplines ranging from experimental psychology to applied mathematics," said President Yudof upon bestowing the medal on Aug. 27. "He successfully realized this university's three-part mission of high-quality academics, full-throated access and unprecedented public service to its greatest extent. San Diego, California and the United States have all been the better for it."

Atkinson established the Presidential Medal in 1997 as a way to recognize extraordinary contributions to the University of California or the community of learning. The medal is the highest honor UC's president can bestow.

"There is no institution closer to my heart than the University of California," said Atkinson. "To be awarded the presidential medal is an unexpected honor, and one for which I will always be grateful."

Atkinson, the 29th person to be awarded the medal, served as chancellor of UC San Diego from 1980–95 and as UC president from 1995–2003.

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RICHARD C. ATKINSON

SEVENTEENTH PRESIDENT OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, YOU ENDOWED THIS ESTEEMED INSTITUTION OF HIGHER LEARNING ENTRUSTED TO YOUR CARE WITH YOUR BRILLIANT INTELLECT, FARSIGHTED LEADERSHIP, AND GREAT AFFECTION FOR IT.

VISIONARY LEADER, EVER COGNIZANT OF THE UNIVERSITY'S ENORMOUS SIGNIFICANCE TO CALIFORNIA AND THE NATION, YOU HELD IT ON A STEADY COURSE, CAREFULLY NURTURING AND BUILDING ON ITS STRENGTHS, TRANSLATING THE HISTORIC VISION OF ITS MISSION OF TEACHING RESEARCH, AND PUBLIC SERVICE INTO INNOVATIVE ACTION THAT CONTINUES TO INSPIRE AND BENEFIT SOCIETY.

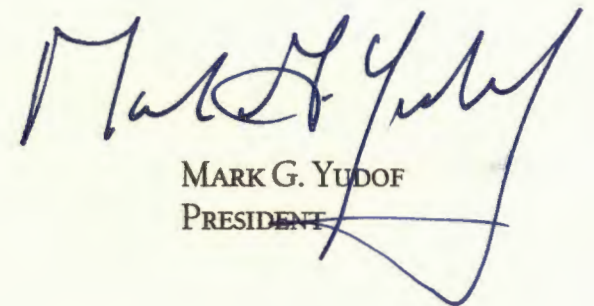
VIGILANT GUARDIAN OF THE LAMP OF LEARNING, YOU HAVE SELFLESSLY DEDICATED YOUR LIFE TO THE PURSUIT OF EXCELLENCE IN ALL FACETS OF EDUCATION AND RESEARCH AND YOUR BOLD STEWARDSHIP OF CALIFORNIA'S CROWN JEWEL, ITS UNIVERSITY, HAS PROVIDED A RICH LEGACY THAT IS WITHOUT PEER.

WITH PROFOUND ADMIRATION FOR YOUR STERLING ACCOMPLISHMENTS AS AN ACCLAIMED SCHOLAR AND PIONEERING EDUCATIONAL LEADER, AND WITH HEARTFELT AFFECTION, THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA IS PROUD TO BESTOW UPON YOU THE PRESIDENTIAL MEDAL.

Fiat Lux!



AUGUST 27, 2012


MARK G. YUDOF
PRESIDENT