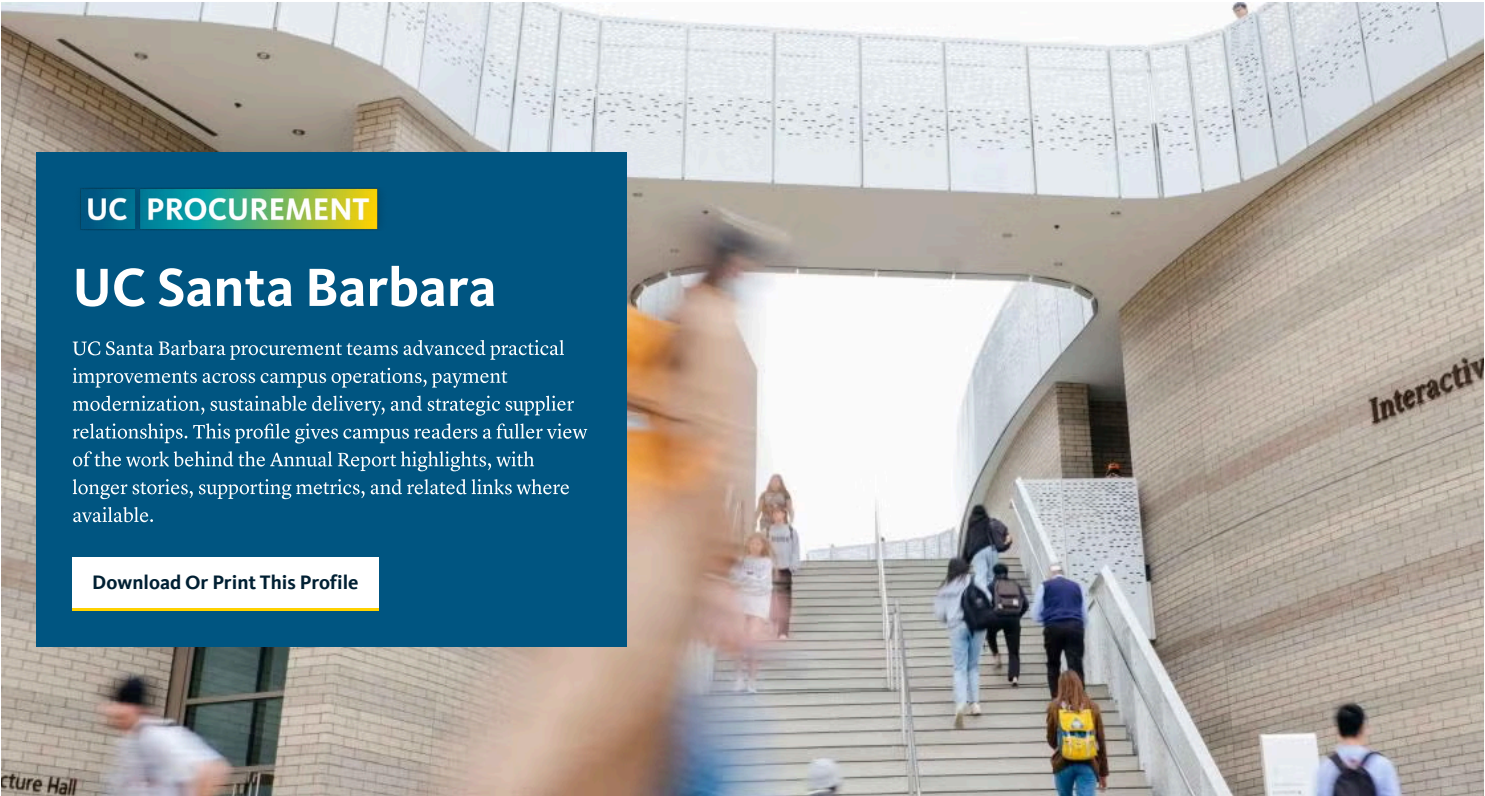




UC PROCUREMENT

UC Santa Barbara

UC Santa Barbara procurement teams advanced practical improvements across campus operations, payment modernization, sustainable delivery, and strategic supplier relationships. This profile gives campus readers a fuller view of the work behind the Annual Report highlights, with longer stories, supporting metrics, and related links where available.

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\$16.5M

Benefit Delivered

The value procurement delivered back to the university

17.2%

Economic Impact Spend

Toward UC 25% goal

EPEAT

6th time Award

Recognizing sustainable electronics purchasing

UC Santa Barbara Achievements by Strategic Pillar

- Economic and Community Impact
- Strategic Partnerships
- Drive Value and Savings
- Continuous Improvement
- Risk Management

Economic and Community Impact

Lab Energy Costs Cut Via ULT Freezer Rebate Program

UCSB combined campus and supplier funding to help laboratories replace aging freezers with more energy-efficient ENERGY STAR models.



Why it matters

The program shows how procurement incentives can advance sustainability while protecting research continuity.

At a Glance

Up to \$6,500

Available toward each eligible ENERGY STAR freezer.

\$4,000

Provided through The Green Initiative Fund.

\$2,500

Supplier rebate from Fisher Scientific.

67%–79%

Estimated annual energy reduction from replacing the oldest units.

Challenge

Aging ultra-low-temperature freezers used excess energy, but replacement cost kept laboratories from moving to ENERGY STAR models.

Approach

UC Santa Barbara paired campus sustainability funding with a Fisher Scientific rebate to make replacement of aging ultra-low-temperature freezers more attainable for laboratories. Eligible labs could receive up to \$6,500 toward an ENERGY STAR model - \$4,000 from The Green Initiative Fund and \$2,500 from Fisher.

Early Result

UC Santa Barbara estimated that replacing its oldest units could reduce annual energy use by 67% to 79%, lower lifecycle costs, and reduce the risk of freezer failure and sample loss.

Related Links:
[Related Annual Report pillar page](#)

Zero-Cost Supplier Take-Back for Ink and Toner

Free supplier take-back programs give UCSB departments an easy, cost-neutral way to recycle empty ink and toner cartridges.

Challenge

Empty ink and toner cartridges were easy to discard. Departments needed a free, prepaid manufacturer take-back path that did not add cost.

Approach

UC Santa Barbara highlighted free, prepaid manufacturer take-back programs for empty ink and toner cartridges. By directing departments to established supplier return channels, the campus makes recycling and remanufacturing simple and cost-neutral while extending material life and reducing waste.

Early Result

The guidance covers several major manufacturers and gives purchasers a practical way to support circular-economy goals without creating a new campus collection program.

Related Links:
[Related Annual Report pillar page](#)

Why it matters

It is a perfect example of using supplier capabilities to make responsible disposal easier.

At a Glance

Free & Prepaid

Manufacturer take-back programs are available at no added cost.

Supplier-Led Recycling

Established return channels support recycling and remanufacturing.

UCSB Earns 6th EPEAT Purchaser Award for Sustainable Electronics

UCSB earned its sixth EPEAT Purchaser Award, recognizing continued leadership in environmentally responsible electronics purchasing.



Challenge

Sustainable electronics purchasing across computers, imaging equipment, mobile phones, and servers needed to remain a visible, year-over-year campus practice, not a one-time project.

Approach

UC Santa Barbara was named a recipient of its sixth EPEAT Purchaser Award, recognizing sustainable electronics purchases across four categories: Computers & Displays, Imaging Equipment, Mobile Phones, and Servers.

Early Result

The annual award recognizes organizations that lead in procuring electronics to reduce environmental and social impacts while building sustainable supply chains, highlighting UCSB's long-standing commitment to sustainable procurement

Why it matters

The award highlights UC Santa Barbara's sustained commitment to reducing environmental and social impacts through responsible electronics sourcing.

At a Glance

6th EPEAT Award

Continued recognition for sustainable electronics procurement.

4 Product Categories

Computers & Displays, Imaging Equipment, Mobile Phones, and Servers.

Related Links:
[2026 EPEAT Purchaser Award Winners](#)
[Related Annual Report pillar page](#)

From Waivers to Certification: UCSB Maximizes Small Business First Compliance

UCSB turned waiver reviews into supplier-development opportunities, helping six businesses achieve active certification and generating nearly \$215,000 in certified small-business spend.



Why it matters

The outreach strengthened compliance while creating longer-term purchasing opportunities for small and diverse suppliers.

At a Glance

6 Suppliers

Achieved active small-business certification.

Nearly \$215K

Spend with certified small businesses.

Expanded Participation

Waiver reviews became opportunities to increase certified supplier participation.

Challenge

Small Business First waivers identified uncertified vendors that could participate if they completed California small-business certification or recertification.

Approach

UC Santa Barbara turned Small Business First waiver reviews into opportunities to expand certified supplier participation. Between February and June 2026, the campus Small Business Officer contacted uncertified vendors about California Small Business certification or recertification.

Early Result

Six suppliers achieved active certified status, yielding nearly \$215,000 in spend with certified small businesses.

Related Links:
[Related Annual Report pillar page](#)

Strategic Partnerships

UCSB Launches Supplier Information Series

UCSB created Supplier Info Sessions to connect campus buyers directly with contracted suppliers and practical purchasing resources.



Challenge

Campus buyers needed direct time with contracted suppliers to learn punchout catalogs, sustainable products, small-business options, and furniture-repurposing services.

Approach

UC Santa Barbara Procurement launched Supplier Info Sessions in March, connecting campus buyers with Amazon Business, ODP Business Solutions, Polycarbin, Westnet, and bkm Office Environments.

Early Result

Virtual presentations and Q&A help users navigate punchout catalogs and identify sustainable products, circular lab-plastics services, small-business suppliers, and furniture repurposing options.

Related Links:

[Related Annual Report pillar page](#)

Why it matters

Recordings and policy guides are retained in an open-access repository, extending the sessions into an on-demand resource for efficient, sustainable, and inclusive purchasing.

At a Glance

5 Featured Suppliers

Amazon Business, ODP, Polycarbin, Westnet, and bkm Office Environments.

Virtual Sessions + Q&A

Buyers receive direct guidance on supplier tools and services.

Purchasing Topics

Sessions address sustainable products, small-business suppliers, lab plastics, and furniture repurposing.

UCSB Relaunches Amazon Business with Guidance

A centralized Amazon Business resource is helping UCSB buyers choose the right purchasing channel and navigate the marketplace more effectively.



Why it matters

A dedicated Amazon Business + UC Santa Barbara webpage brings together buying-channel recommendations, user guides, and practical purchasing guidance, giving departments a centralized resource for using the platform effectively within campus procurement workflows.

At a Glance

Two Buying Channels

Guidance distinguishes Gateway punchout from authorized procurement-card use.

Preferred Purchasing

Helps users identify sustainable products and small-business sellers.

One Central Resource

User guides and buying recommendations are brought together in one webpage.

Challenge

Amazon Business buyers needed clear guidance on when to use the Gateway punchout versus an authorized procurement card, plus one place for user guides and preferred-seller information.

Approach

UC Santa Barbara relaunched Amazon Business with guidance that helps campus buyers choose between the Gateway punchout and authorized procurement card purchases.

Early Result

The initiative shows users how to navigate the marketplace and identify preferred sustainable products and small business sellers.

Related Links:

[UCSB's Amazon Business Prime Account](#)

[Related Annual Report pillar page](#)

Drive Value and Savings

UCSB Named #1 Overall Best in Class for All Card Programs

UCSB earned No. 1 Overall Best in Class recognition for its UC card programs and was the only location to grow across every product category.



Challenge

UC card programs needed cross-functional work on payment optimization, adoption, process efficiency, and customer service. UC Santa Barbara's results were later recognized as No. 1 Overall Best in Class among UC campuses and national laboratories.

Approach

UC Santa Barbara was recognized by UC Procurement and U.S. Bank as the No. 1 Overall Best in Class location for UC card programs among UC campuses and national laboratories. UC Santa Barbara was also identified as the only location to achieve growth across every product category.

Early Result

The recognition reflects a cross-functional approach to payment optimization, card adoption, process efficiency, and customer service.

Related Links:

[UCSB Leads the Pack in UC Systemwide Card Program Awards](#)

[Related Annual Report pillar page](#)

Why it matters

The award provides third-party validation of UC Santa Barbara efforts to expand efficient electronic payment channels while supporting campus operations.

At a Glance

#1 Overall
Best in Class among UC campuses and national laboratories.

Only Location
Achieved growth across every card-product category.

Cross-Functional Success
Recognition reflects payment optimization, adoption, efficiency, and customer service.

Continuous Improvement

Systematic Year-End PO Cleanup Improves Operations

A new mass-closure process is helping UCSB clear completed purchase orders, release residual encumbrances, and improve year-end financial reporting.



Challenge

Fully invoiced and received purchase orders still sat open at year-end, tying up residual encumbrances and cluttering financial reporting.

Approach

UC Santa Barbara Gateway Systems Team introduced a mass-closure process for purchase orders that are fully invoiced and fully received.

Result

Closing completed orders releases residual encumbrances for carry-forward use, surfaces hidden lien or accounting issues, and reduces system clutter that can undermine reporting accuracy.

Related Links:
[Related Annual Report pillar page](#)

Why it matters

By replacing one-by-one cleanup with a systematic year-end process, UC Santa Barbara is strengthening financial stewardship, data quality, and operational efficiency while giving departments a clearer view of available funds.

At a Glance

Mass PO Closure

Fully invoiced and received purchase orders can be closed systematically.

Funds Released

Residual encumbrances become available for carry-forward use.

Cleaner Reporting

Reduces system clutter and helps surface lien or accounting issues.

Shared Carts Balance Workloads and Reduce Pricing

Gateway Shared Cart Groups help UCSB teams distribute purchasing work and combine demand before orders reach suppliers.

Challenge

High-volume units needed a way to share requisition work and combine demand before orders reached suppliers, rather than leaving bottlenecks with a single shopper.

Approach

UC Santa Barbara promoted Gateway Shared Cart Groups to help departments distribute requisition workload more evenly and combine demand before orders reach suppliers. The feature allows multiple shoppers to contribute to shared carts while designated requesters manage submissions, reducing bottlenecks in high-volume units.

Early Result

Shared carts can also be leveraged to combine orders within the unit to take advantage of volume pricing with the Supplier.

Related Links:
[Related Annual Report pillar page](#)

Why it matters

This small system enhancement illustrates how thoughtful use of eProcurement tools can improve daily workflows and support better purchasing decisions.

At a Glance

Shared Workloads

Multiple shoppers can contribute to the same cart.

Combined Demand

Consolidated orders can create opportunities for volume pricing.

UCSB Relaunches Procurement Training Series

UCSB relaunched its procurement training series with seven weekly sessions covering core purchasing, compliance, and contracting topics.

Challenge

Campus staff needed a consistent channel for purchasing and compliance guidance, including live questions, not a one-time announcement.

Approach

UC Santa Barbara relaunched its Procurement training series for FY26 with seven weekly sessions covering Purchasing Basics, Vending Basics, Conflict of Interest, Restricted Commodities, Federal Purchasing, Contracts, and Independent Contractors.

Early Result

The series paired structured learning with live Q&A and advance question submission, giving campus staff direct access to procurement guidance on core purchasing and compliance topics.

Why it matters

The program strengthens buyer readiness and creates a consistent learning channel for departments navigating increasingly complex purchasing requirements.

At a Glance

7 Weekly Sessions

Procurement training

Related Links:
[Related Annual Report pillar page](#)

At a Glance

delivered throughout the FY26 series.

Core Topics
Purchasing, vrending, conflicts, federal purchasing, contracts, and more.

UCSB Completes 5-Year Financial Management Modernization

A five-year modernization brought UCSB onto Oracle Financials Cloud while transforming financial reporting, purchasing workflows, and user support.



Challenge

UC Santa Barbara had to complete a five-year financial-management modernization, replacing 46 legacy systems and preparing procurement users for Oracle Financials Cloud and a new chart of accounts.

Approach

UC Santa Barbara launched Oracle Financials Cloud and a new Common Chart of Accounts on July 1, 2025, completing a five-year modernization effort. The rollout integrated 46 legacy systems and introduced FinHub with 59 reports and 10 dashboards, supported by 330 user testers and 600 town hall participants.

Early Result

Procurement prepared users through an eight-course e-learning curriculum, including five role-based required courses, and dedicated 230 live office hours (11.6% of annual working capacity) to troubleshooting.

Related Links:
[Related Annual Report pillar page](#)

Why it matters

New purchasing integrations, training, and direct support helped departments navigate updated procure-to-pay processes while sustaining campus operations.

At a Glance

5 Years
Financial-management modernization effort.

46 Legacy Systems
Integrated through the transition.

59 Reports + 10 Dashboards
Introduced through FinHub.

330 User Testers
Supported implementation readiness.

600 Participants
Engaged through town halls.

230 Office Hours
Dedicated to live troubleshooting and user support.

Risk Management

Live-Event Safety Compliance Now Built Into Procurement Workflow

UCSB embedded new live-event safety requirements into the purchasing process so training and vendor compliance are reviewed before work begins.

Challenge

New live-event safety rules required vendor training certification for equipment rental, installation, or operation. UC Santa Barbara needed that check inside the procurement workflow.

Approach

UC Santa Barbara translated new live-event safety requirements into a repeatable procurement workflow. Vendors providing equipment rental, installation, or operation at UC venues must certify applicable safety training for each event and requisition.

Early Result

Departments route requests through Gateway Restricted Items, giving Procurement and Environmental Health & Safety a shared review point for participating employees, subcontractors, and training documentation. Follow-up guidance and a Cal/OSHA FAQ supported the transition.

Why it matters

The new approach embeds compliance before work begins and helps reduce operational and legal risk.

At a Glance

Pre-Event Compliance
Required safety training is reviewed before work begins.

Related Links:
[Safety Compliance Workflow](#)
[Related Annual Report pillar page](#)

At a Glance

Shared Review
Procurement and Environmental Health & Safety have a common review point.

Explore the FY26 Annual Report

- Economic and Community Impact**
Enhance opportunities, sustainability, and community value.
- Strategic Partnerships**
Partnerships that extend campus and systemwide impact.
- Drive Value and Savings**
Financial stewardship, savings, and total value.
- Continuous Improvement**
Better processes, tools, services, and training.
- Risk Management**
Compliance, resilience, and risk reduction.