



UC PROCUREMENT

UC Santa Cruz

UC Santa Cruz 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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\$11.12M

Benefit Delivered

6.2% over target

24.4%

Economic Impact Spend

Toward UC 25% goal

\$1.84M

Payment Plus spend

Generated through enrolled suppliers.

UC Santa Cruz Achievements by Strategic Pillar

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

Economic and Community Impact

Leading in Small Business Spend While Delivering Record Campus Savings

UCSC paired strong small-business participation with a campus-record \$11.12 million in Benefit Bank savings.



Challenge

UC Santa Cruz needed to keep small-business spend high while still delivering Benefit Bank savings, using both sourcing results and process innovation.

Approach

Through June 2026, UC Santa Cruz directed 24.4% of campus spend, or \$40.4 million, to small and diverse suppliers, exceeding the 25% goal in multiple months. Procurement also delivered a campus-record \$11.12 million in Benefit Bank savings against a \$10.47 million goal. UC Santa Cruz Accounts Payable also processed more than \$6 million in OneCard payments during FY26.

Early Result

Why it matters

Increases local and diverse supplier participation while delivering campus savings and measurable progress toward UC's 25% supplier-diversity goal, benefiting both the campus budget and local economy.

At a Glance

24.4%

Campus spend directed to small and diverse suppliers through June 2026.

\$40.4M

Spend directed to small and diverse suppliers.

\$11.12M

Campus-record Benefit Bank savings against a \$10.47 million goal.

52,000 Transactions

Prior-year OneCard

Innovation complemented these results: UC Santa Cruz and Berkeley partnered with JAGGAER on emerging AI tools, while a student capstone developed automated policy analysis using 52,000 prior-year OneCard transactions.

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

At a Glance

transactions used for automated policy analysis.

\$6M+
OneCard payments processed by Accounts Payable during FY26.

Strategic Partnerships

UCSC Brings OneCard Amazon Purchasing Under Strategic Oversight

UCSC brought OneCard Amazon purchases into its official Amazon Business account to strengthen pricing, visibility, and guided buying.



Challenge

OneCard Amazon purchases were outside the official campus Amazon Business account, limiting institutional pricing, analytics, and guided-buying controls.

Approach

Beginning in March 2026, UC Santa Cruz required OneCard purchases from Amazon to flow through the campus official Amazon Business account. The managed channel combines institutional pricing, quantity discounts, analytics, and audit visibility with guided-buying controls that prioritize strategic agreements, campus-contracted suppliers, and local, small, diverse, and sustainable options.

Early Result

Procurement supported the migration with training and office hours.

Related Links:
[UCSC Purchasing on Amazon Business](#)
[Related Annual Report pillar page](#)

Why it matters

By bringing high-volume marketplace purchasing into a governed environment, UC Santa Cruz is improving compliance and spend transparency while directing buyers toward choices that better support university priorities.

At a Glance

Managed Purchasing

Institutional pricing, quantity discounts, analytics, and audit visibility are brought into one channel.

Guided Buying

Controls prioritize strategic agreements and campus-contracted, local, small, diverse, and sustainable suppliers.

Drive Value and Savings

UCSC Payment Plus Expansion Delivers Outsized Returns

A targeted Payment Plus expansion turned a U.S. Bank grant into \$1.84 million in spend and approximately \$35,000 in rebate revenue.



Challenge

Payment Plus enrollment needed more capacity than staff time allowed. A U.S. Bank grant funded a student intern to target suppliers and automate analysis.

Approach

With a \$26,520 U.S. Bank grant supporting a student intern, UC Santa Cruz expanded Payment Plus through data-driven supplier targeting and automated analysis. The team reviewed roughly 2,048 potential suppliers, narrowed the list to 244 high-value candidates, and enrolled 61 suppliers in nine months.

Why it matters

Generated \$1.84M in program spend and ~\$35K in rebates from a small grant-funded effort, demonstrating a high ROI and a scalable model to grow rebate revenue that can be reinvested in campus priorities.

At a Glance

61 Suppliers

Enrolled in Payment Plus within nine months.

\$1.84M

Payment Plus spend generated through enrolled suppliers.

~\$35K

Rebate revenue generated.

Early Result

Those enrollments generated \$1.84 million in Payment Plus spend and approximately \$35,000 in rebate revenue, already exceeding the initial project investment. UC Santa Cruz also built a pipeline of 183 additional suppliers, creating a scalable model for continued rebate growth with limited staff workload.

Related Links:
[UCSC’s Payment Plus Project Delivers Outsized Returns](#)
[Related Annual Report pillar page](#)

At a Glance

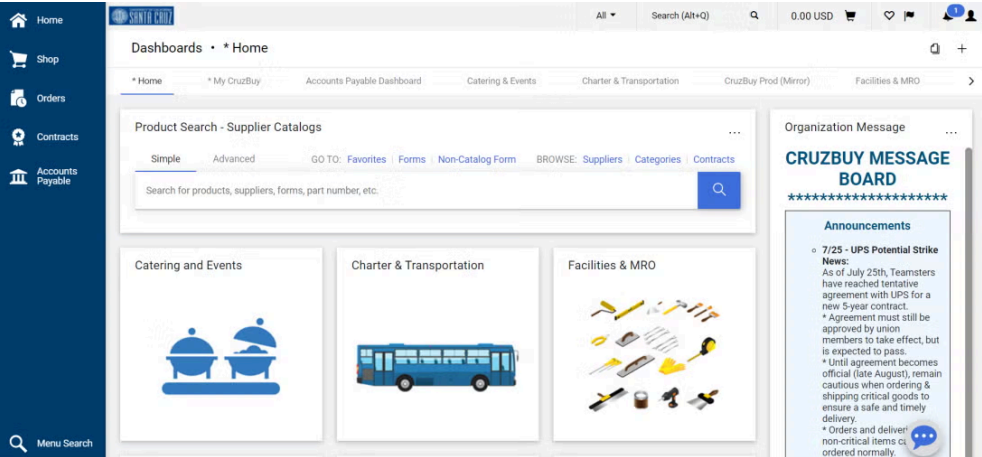
183 Suppliers

Additional suppliers in the pipeline.

Continuous Improvement

Modernizing Procure-to-Pay Through CruzBuy

UCSC brought Direct Pay, receiving, and invoice processing into CruzBuy to reduce manual handoffs and speed transaction closure.



Challenge

Direct Pay, high-value receiving, and invoice processing sat in separate tools. UC Santa Cruz needed those steps in CruzBuy, with less email and DocuSign handling.

Approach

UC Santa Cruz modernized its procure-to-pay process by moving Direct Pay, high-value receiving, and invoice processing into CruzBuy. Payment requests previously handled largely through DocuSign now use a guided workflow; receipt confirmation for purchase orders above \$10,000 shifted from email to automation; and invoices moved from Banner into a single system of record.

Early Result

UC Santa Cruz reported that the new receiving workflow typically saves two to three days in transaction closure.

Related Links:
[Modernizing Procure-to-Pay Through CruzBuy](#)
[Related Annual Report pillar page](#)

Why it matters

Training videos, updated guides, and live webinars supported adoption, reducing manual handoffs while improving auditability, data integrity, vendor visibility, and paper-storage efficiency.

At a Glance

\$10,000+ POs

Receipt confirmations shifted from email to automation.

2–3 Days

Typically saved in transaction closure through the new receiving workflow.

OneCard Consolidates Travel and ProCard Into One Program

OneCard brings travel and low-value purchasing into one program, reducing paperwork and employee out-of-pocket spending.

Challenge

Travel and Pro-Card programs ran separately. UC Santa Cruz needed one card with limits, receipt visibility, and CruzFly reconciliation to reduce paperwork and out-of-pocket costs.

Approach

UC Santa Cruz consolidated its Corporate Travel & Entertainment Card and Pro-Card programs into the UC Santa Cruz OneCard. The unified program combines travel and low-value purchasing with transaction limits, automated controls, receipt-level visibility, and reconciliation through CruzFly.

Early Result

By April 2026, UC Santa Cruz positioned OneCard as the preferred payment method for eligible expenses, helping reduce paperwork and employee out-of-pocket spending.

Related Links:
[Make purchasing easier with the UCSC OneCard](#)
[Related Annual Report pillar page](#)

Why it matters

Rebates and supplier incentives generated through the program are reinvested in campus operations, connecting a simpler user experience with stronger oversight and institutional value.

At a Glance

One Unified Card

Combines travel and low-value purchasing in one program.

Preferred Payment Method

Positioned for eligible expenses by April 2026.

Email Order Management Simplifies Supplier PO and Invoice Handling

Email Order Management gives suppliers a simpler way to view purchase orders and submit invoices without extra system access.

Challenge

Suppliers that receive purchase orders by email still faced extra system access just to see order details and submit an invoice.

Approach

UC Santa Cruz introduced Email Order Management to simplify purchase-order and invoice handling for suppliers that receive orders by email. A secure link in the message gives suppliers direct access to order details and a streamlined web form containing the key fields needed to submit an invoice - without requiring additional system access.

Early Result

The enhancement brings order management into a familiar workflow, reducing manual communication and making it easier for suppliers to provide complete information.

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

Why it matters

UC Santa Cruz expects the approach to support faster, more efficient invoice processing.

Raising Quote Threshold Streamlines Lower-Dollar Purchases

UCSC raised its quote threshold from \$10,000 to \$15,000 to simplify lower-dollar purchasing while preserving key controls.

Challenge

Lower-dollar purchases still required formal quotations above \$10,000. UC Santa Cruz needed a higher competitive-quote threshold without weakening price-reasonableness or federal controls.

Approach

UC Santa Cruz raised the competitive-quote threshold from \$10,000 to \$15,000 to streamline lower-dollar purchases. Transactions at or below the new threshold can proceed without formal quotations when departments document price reasonableness.

Early Result

Federal purchases above \$15,000 still require the Source Selection & Price Reasonableness (SSPR) form, and requirements for purchases of \$100,000 or more remain unchanged.

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

Why it matters

This change removes unnecessary steps for qualifying transactions while retaining controls that protect competition, documentation, and responsible stewardship.

At a Glance

\$10K → \$15K
Competitive-quote threshold increased for lower-dollar purchases.

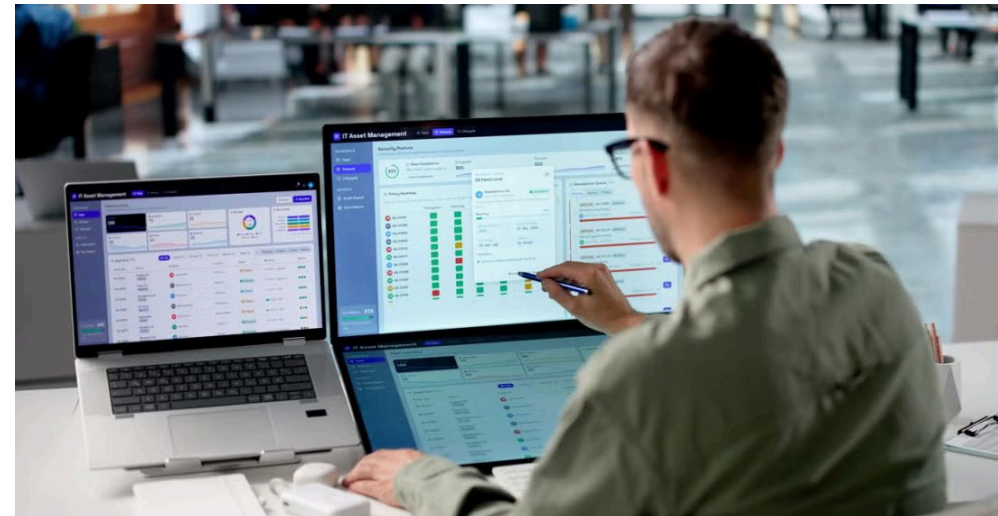
\$15,000+
Federal purchases still require the SSPR form.

\$100,000+
Existing requirements remain unchanged.

Risk Management

Embedding Cybersecurity Review Before Sensitive-Data Purchases

UCSC moved cybersecurity review earlier in the purchasing process for procurements involving P3 or P4 data.



Challenge

Why it matters

Designed jointly by Procurement, Business Contracts, and ITS, the workflow strengthens data protection and reduces the likelihood of late-stage security delays.

At a Glance

P3 / P4 Data
Vendor cybersecurity review is required for procurements involving sensitive data.

Change Orders Included
Review also applies when relevant technology, AI,

Purchases involving P3 or P4 data could reach CruzBuy before vendor cybersecurity review. Units needed a risk rating in the record before the requisition, including on relevant change orders.

Approach

UC Santa Cruz embedded vendor cybersecurity review at the beginning of procurements involving P3 or P4 data. Before submitting a CruzBuy requisition, units complete a ServiceNow Vendor Risk Assessment and Whistic intake, then Information Technology Services assigns a risk rating that becomes part of the purchasing record.

Early Result

The process also applies to change orders that introduce new technology or artificial-intelligence features, increase the protection level, or materially change data handling.

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

At a Glance

protection levels, or data handling change.

Joint Workflow

Designed by Procurement, Business Contracts, and ITS.

Clarifying Covered Transportation Purchasing With TAPS and HR

A clarified routing process helps UCSC departments handle covered transportation purchases with the right TAPS and Contracting Out steps.

Challenge

Covered transportation purchases were unclear. Campus and under-100-mile bus trips needed a TAPS right-of-refusal step, then Contracting Out if TAPS could not support the trip.

Approach

UC Santa Cruz Procurement and Human Resources clarified how departments purchase covered transportation services. Specified campus and under-100-mile bus trips must first be referred to Transportation and Parking Services for right of refusal; when TAPS cannot support the need, the request proceeds through the Contracting Out process.

Early Result

Covered and non-covered trips must be submitted separately.

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

Why it matters

The shared routing model translates labor and covered-services requirements into a clearer operational process, helping departments use internal capacity appropriately and reducing the risk of misrouted or noncompliant requests.

At a Glance

TAPS First

Specified campus and under-100-mile bus trips go first to Transportation and Parking Services.

Contracting Out

Requests proceed through the Contracting Out process when TAPS cannot support the need.

Separate Submissions

Covered and non-covered trips must be submitted separately.