



University of California Student Association
1020 12th St., Suite #232
Sacramento, CA 95814
510-834-8272 | www.ucsa.org

For Immediate Release: June 7, 2020

Contact: President Varsha Sarveshwar, president@ucsa.org

UCSA President's Statement on the Confirmation of the 21st President of the University of California

SAN JOSE, Calif. — In anticipation of the confirmation of Dr. Michael V. Drake as the next UC President, UC Student Association President Varsha Sarveshwar released the following statement:

"On behalf of more than 285,000 UC students, I congratulate Dr. Michael V. Drake on his selection as the next President of the University of California.

Dr. Drake will be the UC's 21st President and its first Black president — a historic milestone that we recognize and honor today.

In fall 2019, when President Janet Napolitano announced her resignation, I said that leading the world's finest public university system is no small responsibility. That could not be more true in 2020. As President, Dr. Drake will confront UC's long-standing challenges — including state disinvestment, housing and food insecurity, and a systemic inability to recruit and retain underrepresented students of color — amid a racist political climate, an economic downturn, and a global pandemic.

In a conversation with student leaders earlier today, Dr. Drake discussed his approach to many of these challenges and affirmed his commitment to equity and inclusion, to accessibility and affordability, to rethinking public safety, and to student consultation.

I am hopeful that Dr. Drake will work in partnership with UCSA to follow through on these principles, and I challenge him to boldly pursue a vision for the University of California that is grounded in economic, social, and racial justice."

###