
From: "Mary Lou D. Ortiz - CFO and Vice Chancellor, Finance & Administration"
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Sent: Thursday, March 19, 2026 6:01 PM
To: All UCI Employees (Campus, UCI Health, and College of Health Sciences), All UCI Students
Subject: Celebrating Chief Liz Griffin and Her Upcoming Retirement

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To the Anteater community,

After more than 33 years in law enforcement and seven years of dedicated service to UC Irvine, Chief Liz Griffin will retire effective June 29, 2026.

Chief Griffin joined UC Irvine in May 2019 following a 27-year distinguished career with the Long Beach Police Department. A graduate of the FBI National Academy, the LAPD West Point Leadership Program, and the UC CORO Systemwide Leadership Collaborative, she brought to UC Irvine deep operational expertise and a strong commitment to community-centered policing.

Under her leadership, the UC Irvine Police Department has made significant strides in strengthening safety, transparency, and service to the campus community. She championed the development of a robust public safety dashboard that promotes transparency and accountability, setting up a model for the other UC campuses. She also led the establishment of a K9 unit serving both the campus and medical center, enhancing public safety capabilities and community engagement.

Chief Griffin guided the implementation of the Campus Safety Plan and played a key role in developing systemwide policing policies that support consistency and best practices across the UC system. Her leadership also brought forward a tiered response program designed to better align services with community needs, while promoting process improvement and operational excellence among staff.

During her tenure, the UC Irvine Police Department was awarded accreditation by the International Association of Campus Law Enforcement Administrators (IACLEA) – placing it among the top 10 percent of university police agencies nationwide.

Chief Griffin also led the Police Department in achieving the goals outlined in the 30x30 Initiative – a national effort aimed at increasing representation and improving the experiences of women in policing. UCIPD nearly tripled its percentage of women officers, rising from 10 percent to 30 percent, achieving that goal in 2025, well ahead of the 2030 target.

We will be launching a search committee shortly to support a seamless leadership transition. Please join me in congratulating Liz on her well-earned retirement and thanking her for her leadership and service to UC Irvine.

Sincerely,

Mary Lou D. Ortiz
Chief Financial Officer
Vice Chancellor, Finance & Administration