



TO BOLDLY GO
EXPANDING HORIZONS

2021–22
ANNUAL
REPORT

Letter from the Vice Chancellor

The Division of Student Affairs advances the university's mission by providing UC Davis students with programs, services and facilities that foster academic success, student development and campus community. To achieve this mission, UC Davis Stores diligently works to serve the needs of our students through innovative programs such as the Equitable Access flat-rate textbook program, which just completed its second year. Year two was marked by increased participation, a program rate reduction (despite record inflation), and the distribution of textbook grants to low-income students, among other achievements outlined in this report. I encourage you to read on to see the progress and impact of the Equitable Access program and our commitment to benefitting even more students in the upcoming year.

As we enter year three, it is clear that Equitable Access has disrupted traditional textbook pricing models. The collective buying power of UC Davis students has put downward pressure on publisher prices to the benefit of all of our undergraduates. Dozens of colleges and universities across the country are taking note of the advantages of Equitable Access and have been inspired to develop flat-rate textbook programs of their own. As Equitable Access expands its horizons beyond UC Davis, the UC Davis Stores team will continue to work with these schools to provide resources and answer questions as they develop their programs.

UC Davis Stores will continue to go boldly as we grow this innovative program. We will continue to regularly meet with students, faculty and campus partners about Equitable Access, and invite you to share your thoughts as we endeavor to find new ways to support our students.

Pablo Reguerin



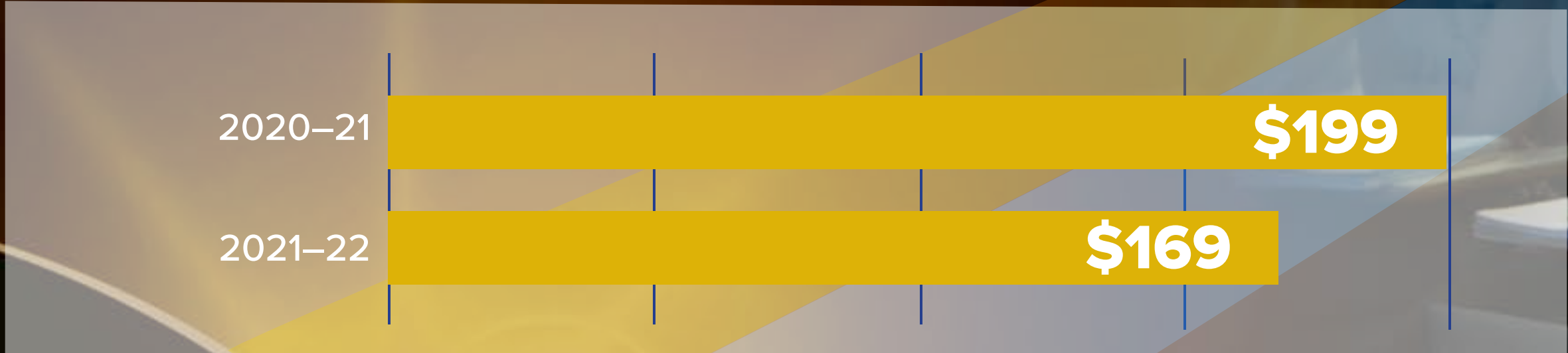
Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs
University of California, Davis



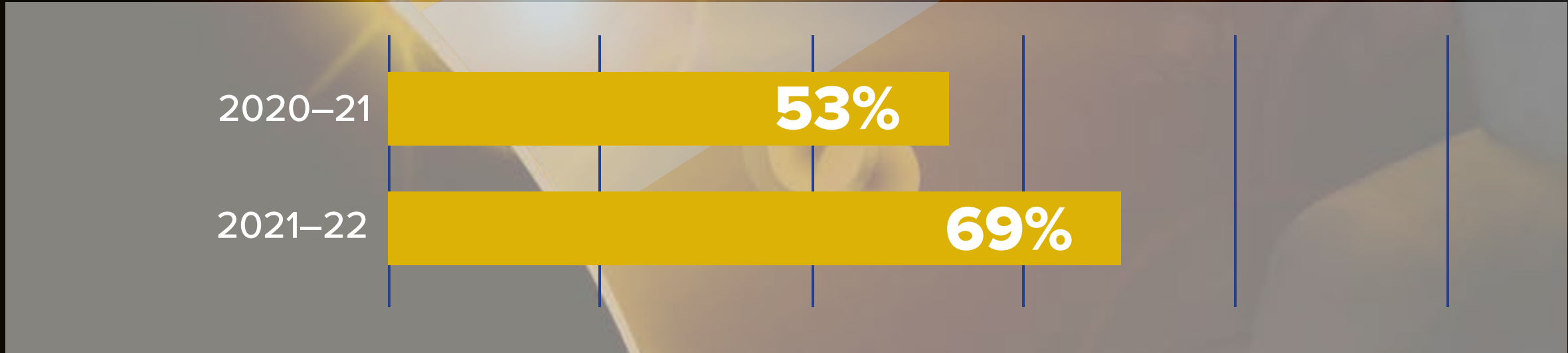
Increasing Access and Affordability

Equitable Access was designed to help reduce inequity among undergraduate students at UC Davis while increasing access and affordability for course materials. During the second year of Equitable Access, UC Davis Stores took significant strides to make the program even more affordable and accessible. The cost to students was reduced by 15%, from \$199 to \$169 per term. Participation among undergraduate students increased by over 30%, from 53% to 69% in 2021–22.

Equitable Access Student Cost per Quarter



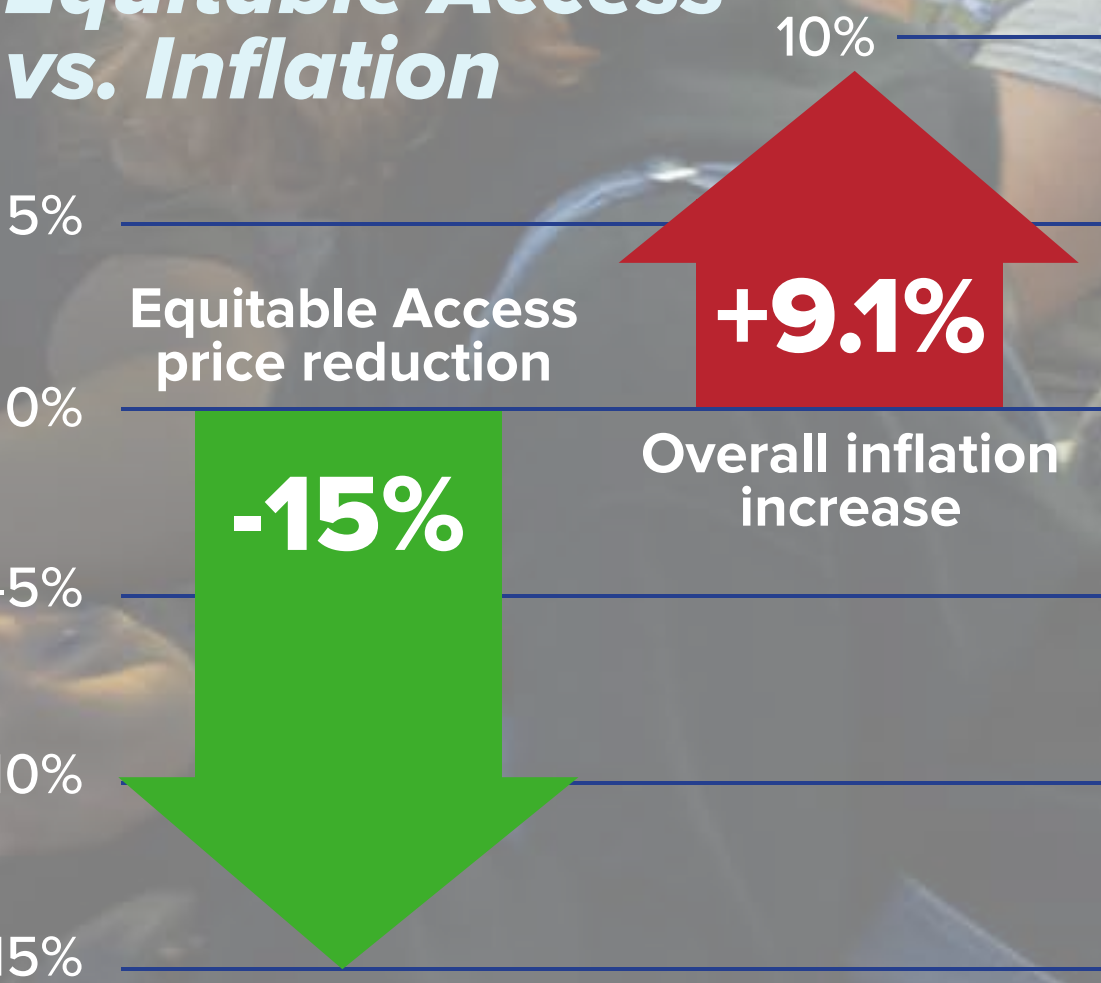
Equitable Access Participation Rate



Mitigating Inflation

UC Davis Stores is committed to addressing any areas where we can provide cost savings to students, especially as many expenses continue to rise. Current US inflation rates have risen to 9.1% (the highest increase since 1981) and the average cost of college textbooks has risen four times faster than the rate of inflation over the past 10 years. It is a point of pride and a mark of the program’s success that even during this time of significant inflation, we have been able to reduce the cost of Equitable Access by 15%.

Equitable Access vs. Inflation



Need Based Grant Funding

In addition to lowering the program cost for all undergraduate students, UC Davis Stores distributed a total of \$507,000 in the form of 3,000 \$169 grants covering the full cost of textbooks for our lowest-income students during the 2021–22 school year. Funding for these grants was made possible by surplus program funds from 2020–21. By working with the Financial Aid office, the excess reserve balance that was achieved in the first year has allowed the university to fully cover the cost of the Equitable Access program for 1,000 low-income students each term. Recipients of the Equitable Access textbook grants were chosen by Financial Aid based on need.

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Benefitting All Students

Students of varying majors have traditionally faced vast differences in pricing of their textbooks and course materials. UC Davis Stores looked to the pricing models of other campus programs to address this inequity. Across campus, costs from tuition to health insurance are not determined by a student's course of study; STEM and humanities majors alike previously paid the same fees for nearly every cost to attend UC Davis except textbooks. Equalizing the cost of textbooks reduces inequity among majors and increases the collective benefit to undergraduate students at UC Davis.

“As a first generation college student, I was grateful that Equitable Access took all the stress out of finding the right textbooks, and the Equitable Access grant made my academic year smoother and a lot more manageable.”

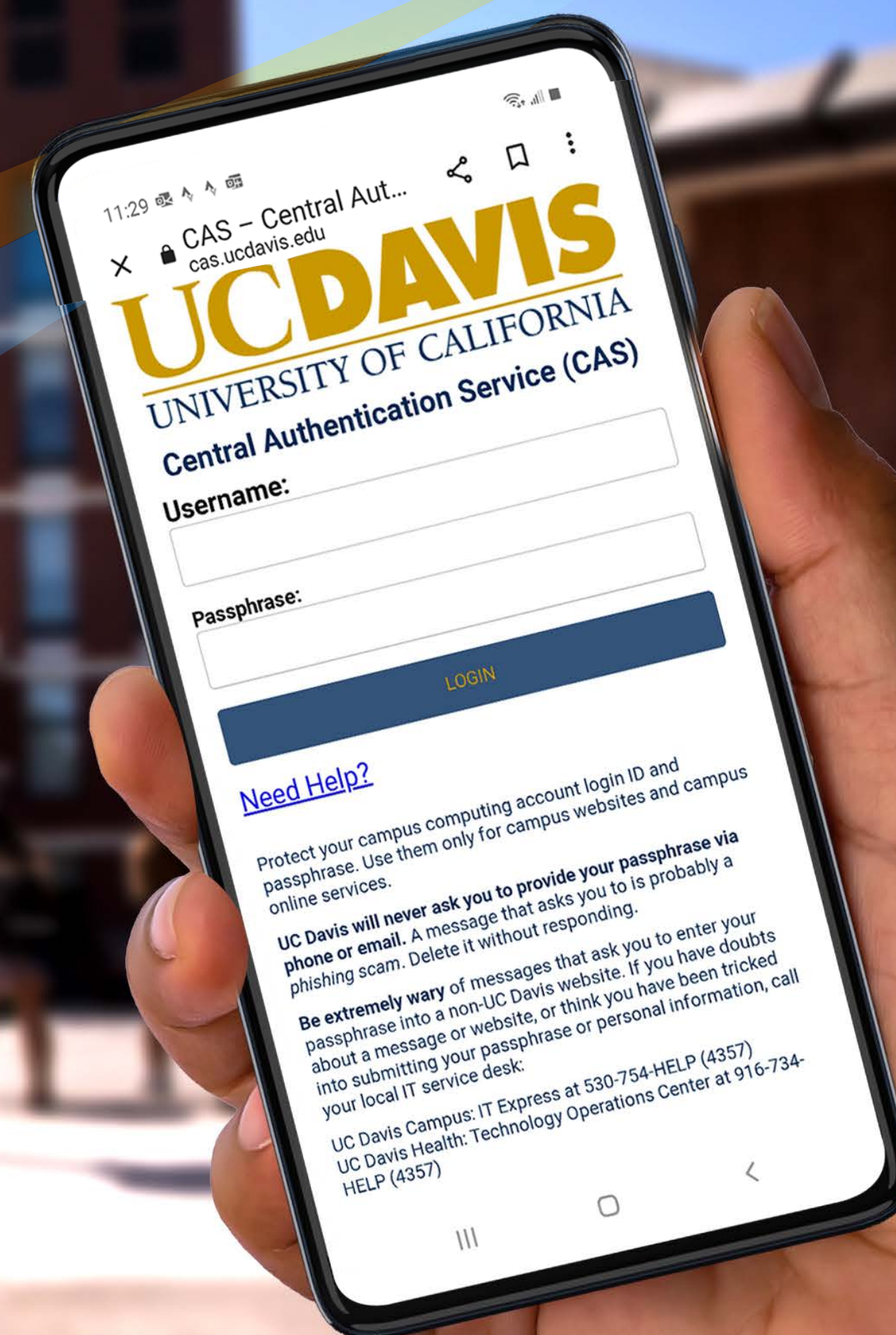
*—Cell Biology '24
Equitable Access
Grant Recipient*

“With the help of the Equitable Access grant, I no longer had to worry about whether or not I had enough to cover the cost of textbooks for my courses, and Equitable Access made accessing my materials extremely efficient.”

*—Applied Mathematics '23
Equitable Access
Grant Recipient*

Streamlining the Opt Out Process

Since Equitable Access launched, UC Davis Stores has helped to reduce confusion and provide first-day-of-class access to textbooks by delivering course materials through Canvas. When a student adds or drops a class, their digital textbooks automatically move with them. Feedback from the Equitable Access student survey provided an opportunity to improve the opt out process as well. Because several campus and third-party IT systems are involved, when Equitable Access launched, it was necessary for students to log in to multiple systems to opt out or re-enroll. In an effort to streamline the process, students who choose to opt out can now do so in two simple steps using their UC Davis single sign-on credentials, eliminating the need for multiple credentials being entered into different systems.



Thinking Sustainably

Ranked the greenest university in the world by GreenMetric, it is part of the UC Davis Stores ongoing mission to help UC Davis create a more sustainable future through our products and practices. As a digital-first textbook program, Equitable Access significantly reduces the resources expended on producing and transporting print textbooks. A recent report noted that the average carbon footprint of a single printed book is 3 kg CO₂. This number does not account for the environmental impacts of shipping and transportation, which multiply when students ship books back or return them to campus when they add or drop courses, as was common prior to Equitable Access. With Equitable Access, print textbooks are only used when a digital option does not exist, and digital textbooks move with students immediately when they add or drop a course.

As a **digital-first** program, Equitable Access **significantly reduces the resources expended** on producing and transporting print textbooks



Looking ahead

As the number of required textbooks per student rises, it becomes more important for us to work with publishers to put downward pressure on program costs. Currently, 96% of required textbooks are priced in a range that maintains affordability for our students and the Equitable Access program. UC Davis Stores is working diligently with publishers to identify and negotiate any high price outliers in our program to ensure the financial viability of this flat-rate model.

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Scholarships

Going forward, when **surplus funds** are generated, they will continue to be spent the following year on textbook grants for low-income students. In the 2022–23 academic year, \$700,000 in surplus funds from the 2021–22 school year will be awarded in the form of 4,000 scholarships to low-income students.

GO
BOLDLY



