SINCE ITS GOLD RUSH BEGINNINGS, SAN FRANCISCO HAS BEEN INTERNATIONALLY KNOWN AS A PLACE OF INNOVATION. THE SAME CAN BE SAID OF SAN FRANCISCO STATE UNIVERSITY. FOR MORE THAN A CENTURY WE HAVE BROKEN BARRIERS AND RESISTED TRENDS.

THE SAN FRANCISCO STATE OF MIND

Long before anyone spoke of “globalization,” SF State established the first international relations degree in the United States. Our Poetry Center and American Poetry Archives are the first of their kind in a university setting, and we’re home to the nation’s only College of Ethnic Studies. At SF State, we see the world as our classroom. Each semester our students participate in more than 500 community service learning courses; our faculty members conduct leading-edge research across the globe; and our alumni—more than 212,561 strong—keep local and global businesses, schools and hospitals running smoothly.

From its roots as a teacher-training school to its recognition today as a major urban university, SF State continues to reflect the forward thinking of San Francisco, one of the world’s most vibrant and beautiful cities.
EUREKA MOMENTS EVERY DAY

SF STATE ATTRACTS WORLD-CLASS FACULTY DEDICATED TO THE PURSUIT OF EXCELLENT TEACHING, THE DEVELOPMENT OF STUDENTS’ POTENTIAL AND THE ADVANCEMENT OF DISCOVERY.

SF State has stayed on the forefront of academic excellence for more than a century by embracing and enhancing myriad fields of study. Here professors advance teaching and society, whether experimenting with new forms of poetry or locating planets beyond our solar system.

Discovery thrives on SF State’s campus because our faculty members continue to unearth information about the topics they teach. Step inside our herbarium and you could find a group of young scientists quizzing Professor Dennis Desjardin about his latest find: a new mushroom species. Inside the Humanities building Professor Michael Krasny, fresh from hosting his critically acclaimed radio show, might be sharing his latest insight on literary theory.

Meanwhile, next door in Burk Hall an elementary school teacher could be explaining how Professor Pamela Wollberg’s insight led to a breakthrough for a child with autism.

With degrees from the nation’s top institutions, SF State’s diverse scholar-teachers win prestigious teaching awards, professional honors and competitive fellowships. Their real-world experience offers students rare opportunities to link classroom and community, textbook and laboratory.

There are endless opportunities to witness discovery in action at SF State, but there’s no need to step onto campus to see our breakthroughs. Just open a newspaper, turn on the television or surf the Web to encounter the insight of a faculty member. Maybe it’s Vance Vredenburg, who has uncovered the cause of a mass extinction of amphibian species, or Diana Chu, whose research has brought scientists closer to infertility cures. These and other faculty experts continue to push against the very boundaries of knowledge, and to quote the SF State motto, their experience teaches.
At SF State, educating tomorrow’s workforce involves more than tests and term papers. We graduate citizens who are practiced in making positive contributions to their communities. Abundant examples can be found across the city, from the Mission clinic where a nursing student stops a child’s asthma attack, to the Sunset senior center where a design and industry major creates a cane to increase residents’ mobility.

SF State’s tradition of civic engagement, carried on by graduates, extends well beyond Bay Area borders. The University inspires Peace Corps volunteers every year while countless alumni create service programs of their own. Some examples: activist Cleve Jones is spreading a powerful message to the world decades after he stitched together the first squares of the AIDS Memorial Quilt. Randy Hayes’ Rainforest Action Network, which branched from his thesis project, is pushing companies to balance profit-making with environmental protection.

Here, in the city where the United Nations was created, SF State is proud of its many representatives—ambassadors of good will—making a difference in the farthest reaches of the globe.

A NATIONAL LEADER IN CIVIC ENGAGEMENT, SF STATE IS ONE OF A SELECT GROUP OF SCHOOLS THE PRINCETON REVIEW CALLS “COLLEGES WITH A CONSCIENCE” AND THE RECIPIENT OF A PRESIDENT’S AWARD, THE HIGHEST FEDERAL RECOGNITION A UNIVERSITY CAN RECEIVE FOR ITS COMMITMENT TO COMMUNITY SERVICE.

On any given day, SF State’s influence can be felt in every neighborhood across the city. On the Bay, oceanographers from SF State’s Romberg Tiburon Center for Environmental Studies monitor shifts in water currents to help local agencies plan a cleanup in the event of an oil spill. Under a tree in Presidio National Park, students inspect an insect trap to help park officials ensure their plants are attracting a diverse community of bees. In a Hunters Point high school, a student in the University’s SF ROCKS program begins to envision a career as a scientist, and charts a course to earn a college degree.

MAKING CONNECTIONS NEAR AND FAR

GOODWILL AMBASSADORS

SF State’s Whirlwind Wheelchair International is bringing specialized wheelchairs to Haiti, helping thousands of earthquake survivors who have lasting mobility impairments.
For 13 consecutive years, SF State’s creative arts alumni have been nominated for Hollywood’s highest honor, an Academy Award.

PREPARING CHILDREN FOR COLLEGE
SF Promise, a partnership with San Francisco and its public schools, guarantees admission to SF State to all qualified San Francisco public high school graduates.

IMPROVING PHYSICAL HEALTH
SF State’s physical therapy master’s program is consistently ranked one of the top 20 in the country.

CREATING COMMUNITY LEADERS
The Willie L. Brown, Jr. Leadership Center at SF State educates and prepares students to meet the 21st-century challenges of governing and managing cities, counties, and regional governments and organizations.

FUELING THE ECONOMY
Annual spending related to SF State ($617 million) generates a total impact of $930 million on the regional economy, and more than $1 billion on the statewide economy.

PROTECTING LOCAL AND GLOBAL WILDLIFE
One of the nation’s top producers of undergrads who go on to earn biology doctorates, SF State is answering key questions about creatures great and small, from whales to honeybees.

CREATING A SKILLED WORKFORCE
SF State incorporates internationalization across the curriculum to prepare graduates for an increasingly global society.

TEACHING CHILDREN WELL
SF State has trained an estimated 75 percent of San Francisco teachers, and our doctoral program in educational leadership is helping school districts run smoothly.

CARING FOR NEIGHBORS
SF State social work students provide nearly 100,000 hours of community service per year to hospitals, clinics, homeless shelters and other programs.

GREENING WORKPLACES
The School of Engineering’s free energy assessments have helped Bay Area manufacturing plants generate annual savings of 10 to 20 percent.

GROWING BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES
Busy professionals pursue their MBAs conveniently at SF State’s Downtown Campus. The program is a national leader in socially responsible business education.

MONITORING WATERWAYS
SF State’s Romberg Tiburon Center for Environmental Studies restores tidal marshes and protects estuarine habitat through research, monitoring and educational programs.
At SF State, the classroom provides the venue for innovative teaching ideas, and provides a link with the scientific research community,” says Megumi Fuse, associate professor of biology.
SF STATE REMAINS COMMITTED TO EDUCATING STUDENTS FOR LIVES OF PURPOSE, ENGAGEMENT AND LEADERSHIP— AND TO ENSURING ACCESS TO QUALITY PUBLIC HIGHER EDUCATION.

Your support makes it possible

Today our students face significant challenges. Eroding support from the state has reduced funding from a previous level of 64 percent just a few years ago to about 36 percent of the University operating budget. The University now depends more than ever on its alumni, friends and parents as well as foundations and corporations for the advocacy and support that will help us to continue our mission. Private donations play an increasingly crucial role in offsetting continued declines in public funding.

Nearly half of all our students receive need-based financial aid. Their tuition and fees have increased more than 100 percent since 2007. They need your support.

Individual lives and our communities are enriched through the aspirations and contributions of an educated citizenry. Your support ensures that the University remains strong, accessible and affordable to deserving students.

We hope you will join the many alumni, friends and other community members who recognize the importance of investing in SF State and who are helping to meet this challenge.

For more information, visit www.sfsu.edu/develop
OUR MAIN CAMPUS IS LOCATED ON MORE THAN 141 ACRES IN A BEAUTIFUL CORNER OF SAN FRANCISCO, JUST ONE MILE FROM THE PACIFIC OCEAN AND 15 MINUTES FROM DOWNTOWN. EXPERIENCE THE SAN FRANCISCO STATE OF MIND BY STROLLING OUR AWARD-WINNING GROUNDS OR TAKING A VIRTUAL TOUR: WWW.SFSU.EDU/~PUBOFF/TOUR