



Aggie Jumpstart students attended a field trip to the Lake Tahoe area during a Career Discovery Groups class.

# AGGIE jump START

Aggie Jumpstart is a program created to promote inclusive academic excellence and student success, increase retention and address the barriers that many first generation, low-income and underserved students experience.

Launched in 2019 by the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences, the program partners with campus Retention Initiatives and the Internship and Career Center to support students and create an environment that fosters community building, leadership, networking opportunities and advising.

## 2019-2022 HIGHLIGHTS

### Academic Outcomes

Since the program began, we've seen enhanced academic outcomes among our Aggie Jumpstart participants in comparison to non-participants.

This includes:

- Greater student retention from first year to second year
- Higher GPAs at the end of first year
- Fewer students experiencing academic difficulty
- More academic units completed overall
- Improved graduation rates



### Support Networks

Aggie Jumpstart participants developed valuable relationships with academic advisors through frequent meetings. As a result, students responded feeling:

- Greater confidence in their academic capability
- Better able to utilize campus resources such as tutoring, success coaching, faculty and teaching assistant office hours

**STUDENT TESTIMONIAL:**

"... I met with an academic advisor at the CA&ES Dean's Office, and they helped me find mental health resources, the Food Pantry on campus, and many other programs to help me find my footing. The inclusivity of the environment has made me feel comfortable and has helped me combat imposter syndrome."

### Community and Belonging

Dedicated Aggie Jumpstart events and participation in Retention Initiative events/programs supported students to build their community and feel a sense of belonging at UC Davis.

**STUDENT TESTIMONIAL:**

"... it was nice to hear about [the other students] goals and their stories and it made me realize that there are a lot of students on campus who I share similarities with, so I shouldn't be afraid to put myself out there and share my story, too."



### Leadership and Service

Aggie Jumpstart students developed leadership skills and contributed to their communities. Scheduled service opportunities provided students with a chance to connect with their peers while recognizing ways to give back to others.

**STUDENT TESTIMONIAL:**

"...I feel privileged in a lot of ways for the education I was able to receive, so it seems like the least I could do to give back to someone who didn't have those opportunities. Plus, we usually have a lot of fun [together]..."



### Career Preparation

Aggie Jumpstart students also participate in the Career Discovery Groups (CDG) program, which supports career exploration, provides mentorship and builds networking skills. Many Aggie Jumpstart students have successfully expanded their work and leadership experience and used their skills to:

- Obtain jobs on and off-campus as peer advisors, peer mentors and orientation leaders
- Intern with campus units such as Global Affairs
- Step into leadership roles as Aggie Ambassadors and work with the Student Alumni Association
- Give back to the program as Aggie Jumpstart peer mentors