



UC San Diego Foundation Trustee



Darcel Hulse

When your work takes you to Thailand, Mexico, Singapore and the Middle East, it can help you bring a decidedly global point of reference to a university board. This is what Darcel Hulse contributes to the UC San Diego Foundation. As president of Sempra LNG, which leads Sempra Energy's efforts to develop, build and operate liquefied natural gas receipt terminals, Darcel is someone who knows how to work with very different kinds of people toward a common purpose.

A longtime, active member of the Institute of the Americas board – an organization located on the UCSD campus that promotes and facilitates public policies for development, trade and investment, good governance and regional integration – Darcel feels that his contributions to UC San Diego have largely been through this channel. For example, he was asked to join the Foundation after playing a part, with Sempra Energy, in attracting Nobel Laureate Mario Molina from Mexico to the UCSD faculty.

Darcel stays connected to the campus because, “It’s an opportunity to see what goes on. The focus of the university has been on growth, which is extremely valuable to the community. Being one of the larger companies in San Diego, and a Fortune 500 company, Sempra is also focused on growth, so it’s natural to have involvement with local universities to find good people, the lifeblood of any company.”

Prior to joining Sempra, Darcel was president of Unocal Asia-Pacific Ventures, based in Singapore, and was responsible for new-business development in Southeast Asia. Before that, he served as president of Unocal's Geothermal-Power Division where he oversaw the management of the division's full portfolio and led Unocal's first geothermal efforts into Indonesia. From 1985 to 1990, He was vice president of the Corporate Engineering and Construction Division for Unocal. He began his career in 1970 as an engineer at Unocal's Los Angeles refinery.

Darcel received his bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering from California State Polytechnic University; he has given back to his alma mater by serving on a very industrious task force, responsible for getting a new engineering laboratories building constructed on campus. “I was asked to be involved in an engineering advisory council, but I didn't want to advise, I wanted to do something. We created the Industrial Action Council, got people to serve, we did something. Then it was done.”



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In addition to supporting UC San Diego and Cal Poly, Darcel is deeply invested in another institution of higher learning. When asked if any of his six children attended the University of California, he laughs, “No. I pay all of this wonderful California tax to support education here but all of my kids went out of state to BYU!”