

Trustee



Sandra Timmons '81

There is a bond between Sandra Timmons and UC San Diego that goes back to those rigorous years as a Revelle College psychology major/math minor. But it may have been cemented on the intramural softball team where she met Richard Sandstrom, who would become her lifelong teammate. Sandy was an undergraduate, and Rick had recently earned a degree in Engineering and was starting on his PhD. Natives of Orange County and Los Angeles respectively, they decided to make San Diego their home, and the community has benefited by their enthusiastic involvement in many ways since.

“Rick and I have been supporting UCSD for 25 years,” says Sandy, “beginning with small donations to the Library and chancellor’s fund.” Together with Richard’s company, Cymer, the Sandstrom/Timmons’ giving progressed to an engineering chair, and they have also created graduate fellowships, undergraduate scholarships, supported CISA 3 and other areas on campus. Most recently the couple created endowments to perpetually fund the Richard L. Sandstrom Graduate Fellowship in Engineering, and the Timmstrom Scholars as part of the Chancellor’s Associates Scholars scholarship fund.

“To me,” says Sandy, “supporting students is most important. UC San Diego of course is known for many things, such as its great research, but if kids can’t afford college, or a graduate degree, then we can’t train the best people to do the research and provide excellent healthcare. Rick and I believe in contributing to a well-educated population in San Diego.”

Sandy has worked as a producer/writer and video consultant for both corporate and educational clients. As a member of the KPBS-TV staff, she produced public affairs programs and was a location director for the Nightly Business Report. As owner of Video Applications for Education and Training, Sandy produced videoconferences, documentaries and instructional videos, and developed interactive educational computer games and Internet products. With the California State University office of the Chancellor, she created dissemination programs for the National Science Foundation aimed at increasing participation of minorities and women in math and science; and increasing graduation rates of minority and economically challenged students. Sandra also produced videoconference programs for continuing education credit for the American Chemical Society, IEEE and the State Bar of California. She drew on her production background to serve as stage manager of nonprofit organizations for youth and adult actors, such as Coast Kids Theatre/Star Theatre in Oceanside.

Sandy has always had an active role in San Diego’s nonprofit community; she’s worked with the San Diego Children’s Choir, the Girl Scouts, PTAs and public school districts. She chaired a capital campaign that raised over \$700,000 for a San Diego public high school. Currently, in addition to serving on the UC San Diego Foundation Board of Trustees,

Sandy is a member of the KPBS Advisory Board, the San Diego Social Venture Partners Board of Directors, and she chairs the San Diego Children's Choir Board of Directors. Sandy and Rick have two children: Greg, who is a graduate of Harvey Mudd College and now works in the technology sector in the Bay Area, and Jenna, who earned a UC San Diego double degree in history and literature, and is now a PhD candidate in Medieval history at the University of Chicago.

Sandy is looking forward to learning how she can positively affect lives in San Diego by serving on one of the community's largest boards. "The concept of change has been on my mind for a long time," she says. "How do you make systemic change? How can something as big as UC San Diego touch individuals here in our community? That's what I want to learn."