

Trustee



Wendy Kwok '99

Wendy Kwok strives to make a positive difference in everything that she does. Whether it is serving the immigrant Chinese community at a medical clinic in San Francisco, or conducting monthly beach surveys to determine the health of the California coast as a volunteer scientist, her goal is to make an impact.

Since graduating from UC San Diego in 1999, Wendy has been a committed campus ambassador and student supporter. In 2011, she established an endowment to create the Wendy W. Kwok Research Scholarship, now known as the Springboard Eureka! Scholarship. Wendy chose the name “Springboard” based on Richard Shell’s book, “Springboard: Launching Your Personal Search for Success,” which focuses on everyone’s personal ability to explore and maximize their unique and individual potential to be their best. The award enables UC San Diego undergraduate biology students who have a passion for the advancement of science and scientific discovery to pursue their innovative ideas in a quality environment with formal guidance and immersive laboratory experiences.

Furthermore, in 2017, Wendy created the Springboard Eureka! Hong Kong scholarship, which enables UC San Diego undergraduates to travel to Hong Kong for research studies, and international students from Hong Kong to pursue biomedical research at UC San Diego. “I value global exposure and wanted to offer this opportunity for UC San Diego undergraduates to expand their community and network beyond the United States,” said Wendy.

Wendy appreciates the opportunity to be a part of a team of esteemed community leaders who are working together to develop the future of a university that is innovative, dynamic, and impactful in education, research, and teaching.

“UC San Diego gave me a chance and welcomed me into their community when I was an impressionable undergraduate – this is where I cultivated my foundation, deepened my values and realized my potential,” said Wendy. “I would like to provide a similar richness to current students and the future legacy. To be invited to join the Foundation Board as a Trustee is a privilege.”

Wendy is a resident of San Francisco, and is a principal at Sunstate Development LLC. She formerly served as a member attorney for the California Legislative Counsel Bureau. She earned a Bachelor’s degree in animal physiology and neuroscience from UC San Diego and a J.D. from the Golden Gate University School of Law.

Wendy serves as co-chair of the UC San Diego Bay Area Regional Campaign Cabinet. She is a member of the UC San Diego Division of Biological Sciences Dean’s Leadership Council. She

is also a Leadership Council member of the Monterey Bay Aquarium, where she established the inaugural endowment for science teacher professional development. In addition, Wendy is a board member for Self-Help for the Elderly, an organization that serves the needs of low-income, underserved elderly people in the San Francisco Bay Area.

In her free time, Wendy volunteers as a scientist with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), conducting monthly beach surveys to record the healthy biota baseline of the California coast. She also leads tours of the tide pools at the Fitzgerald Marine Reserve as a volunteer naturalist, teaching visitors about the connection between intertidal life and the world's environmental health.