

Endowed Chair in Air Quality
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Humans are having unprecedented effects on the finite resources of the Earth, including its atmosphere. These problems range from the local, such as smog and indoor air pollution, to the global, such as stratospheric ozone depletion and global climate change. Regardless of their scale, current air quality problems require creative solutions based on a rigorous scientific understanding of each problem. For the past half century the United States and its universities have been leaders in exploring the causes of our air quality problems and the ways in which we can solve these problems. While public funding is growing scarcer, there has never been a time when research into the quality of our air has been more crucial.

The University of California, Davis has an unprecedented team of over 50 faculty members working together on many of our air quality problems (see <http://airquality.ucdavis.edu>), making up one of the largest groups in the country studying these issues. The Department of Land, Air and Water Resources is a central component of this environmental research effort. This program trains both graduate and undergraduate students and has one of the two National Weather Service certified undergraduate programs in California. While research performed by faculty and students in the Department of Land, Air, and Water Resources covers a broad range of areas, one of our strengths is in air quality research. Current air quality research topics in our program include the role of agriculture and other sources to smog in the Central Valley, the chemistry and health effects of California's air pollution, and transport of air pollutants from over the Pacific Ocean into California.

To build on our strengths in air quality, and our ability to address air pollution problems in California, the Department of Land, Air, and Water Resources seeks to create an Endowed Chair in Air Quality. Our goal with this Endowed Chair is to help our program, and UC Davis as a whole, tackle some of the most urgent air quality concerns that we face, train new generations of scientists, and inform state, national and international policy. Furthermore, with this new position we hope to attract a star-quality professor that will raise the profile of the department to new heights and bring increasing national and international preeminence to UC Davis's now formidable air quality research programs.