



Dear {{First Name}},

The world that awaits UC Riverside students today is far different from the one that existed when we first submitted our applications for admission. But I know from experience that UCR's students are not forging forward empty-handed as we seek to navigate these uncharted waters. At UCR we receive an education dedicated to solving problems in real time through practice and hands-on research. **And it's people like you who make this education possible.**

UC Riverside students often overcome challenges many would believe impossible. And we persevere to become the leaders of tomorrow not in spite of those obstacles, but because of them. For many, like me, our stories start here and will continue here.

Growing up, I shuffled between six elementary schools, four middle schools, and four high schools around the Inland Empire as my mom struggled to find a place for me and my four siblings to live. We never stayed in one place for more than a year, living in apartments, motel rooms, friends' houses, and even our car. Despite all this, I graduated from Moreno Valley's Canyon Springs High School, completed my bachelor's degree, and returned to the Inland Empire last fall to begin the Master of Education program at UC Riverside.

School has always been my refuge—a healthy distraction from what was going on at home. I know many students in the [variable unit] feel the same. It's support like yours that keeps these resilient students motivated on the way to achieving their degrees.

This year I earned a single-subject teaching credential in English and spent the last school year working as a student teacher of ninth-grade English at Rancho Verde High School in Moreno Valley. I even filled in as the substitute, responsible for creating lesson plans, grading, and attendance. I hope to further earn a doctorate and someday teach at the university level.

If education is important to you, I hope you'll consider making a gift to UC Riverside today. **Donors like you help UCR students persevere to complete their degrees so they can go on to make a difference in our community.** ... (continued on the back)



Philanthropic giving to UCR this year has supported UCR students in need of temporary housing, groceries, and technology, and provided funding to keep vital support services available remotely. This fall as students continue virtual learning, **your donations will change the trajectory of many lives, helping to clear the path to a better, brighter future.**

Thank you for believing that the future can be even better than the past and for making a UCR education possible for students like me.



Gratefully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'J' and 'W' followed by a horizontal line extending to the right.

**Jonathan Walters**  
M.Ed., '20

P.S. UC Riverside has admitted a record number of freshmen for fall 2020 and has the second-highest percentage of low-income and first-generation students admitted in the UC system. You can be proud to know a UCR education is in high demand and with your support, we are providing opportunities for even greater access to UCR for California students! **To make your gift today, please visit [donate.ucr.edu/vd](https://donate.ucr.edu/vd).**

