



Rethink Everything

INNOVATION AMBASSADORS PROGRAM GUIDE

VISION

Innovation Ambassadors foster a culture of innovation at UCI by inspiring colleagues to rethink ideologies, processes, technologies, and how we work on a daily basis in order to save time, reduce costs, avoid costs, and generate revenue. Innovation Ambassadors are integral partners within the Work Reimagined 2.0 program, championing innovation at the departmental, division, school, and enterprise levels.

INTRODUCTION

UCI was founded on a pioneering spirit that lives today in faculty and staff innovators. Never satisfied with the status quo, innovators inherently look for ways to do things better. Innovators are willing to challenge what we do, why we do it, and how we do it. Nothing is too sacred, too ingrained in tradition and lore, too big or too small to be challenged. Innovators are brave, forward thinking individuals that envision a tomorrow that is better than today. Innovators thrive on propelling our workforce and workplace into the future simply by *rethinking everything*.

The Work Reimagined 2.0 program was launched in 2023 to inspire campus to dig deep and find ways to save time, reduce costs, avoid costs, and generate revenue. Special campaigns focused on one or more of the four pillars of Work Reimagined 2.0 offer faculty and staff the opportunity to propose solutions that could benefit their team, department, division, school, campus or the entire UCI enterprise. Our Innovation Ambassadors are vital to the success of the Work Reimagined 2.0 program and the resultant innovation campaigns by driving program and campaign participation, and by shepherding selected ideas through to implementation.

DESCRIPTION AND OVERVIEW

Purpose

Innovation Ambassadors serve as key advocates and champions of the UCI Work Reimagined 2.0 program, campaigns, activities, and resources for faculty and staff.

Role

Innovation Ambassadors are volunteers who drive a culture of innovation by encouraging faculty and staff participation and acting as an extension of the Work Reimagined 2.0 (WR2.0) team. They are passionate about innovation and process improvement, love to learn, and are confident in sharing and encouraging peer participation in Work Reimagined 2.0 campaigns, webinars, live events, and other opportunities.

Time Commitment

Annual Innovation Ambassador Kick-Off Luncheon Meeting (In-Person)

Agenda: Introduce Innovation Ambassador Program, Review Responsibilities, Introduction to WR2.0 Team, Individual Introductions, Networking/Idea Exchange

Time Commitment: 2 Hours (Annually)

Quarterly Innovation Ambassador Meetings (Virtual)

Agenda: Updates, Spotlights, Resources, Share Successes, Goals for Next Quarter, Next Steps

Time Commitment: 1 Hour per Quarter (4 hours total)

Monthly Work with Local Team/Division/School

Responsibilities: Communicate WR2.0 program news, encourage participation through creative and innovative local programs the Innovation Ambassador develops themselves

Time Commitment: 1 – 2 Hours per Month (12 – 24 hours total)

Special Innovation Sessions

Innovation Ambassadors will be invited to special sessions hosted by innovation experts on topics ranging from innovation best practices to trends, innovation challenges, inspirational webinars, and much more.

Time Commitment: TBD; Typically One Hour in Length; Sessions are Optional but Encouraged

Total Time Commitment per Year: 18 – 30 Hours++

++Participation in Special Innovation Sessions as Desired

Responsibilities

- Communicate Work Reimagined 2.0 program information as provided by WR2.0 team
- Help create and drive a culture of innovation
- Connect with faculty and staff on the topic of innovation – inspire innovative thinking
- Encourage participation in Work Reimagined 2.0 campaigns, events, and activities
- Commit to one year as an Innovation Ambassador (renewable annually)

BENEFITS

Benefits to Becoming an Innovation Ambassador

- Be an active participant in driving a culture of innovation at UCI
- Establish a reputation as an innovator and innovation champion
- Build relationships with colleagues within and outside your team/department
- Learn (or grow) and apply new skills, e.g., communication, facilitation, change management, marketing, engagement
- Earn recognition for service as an Innovation Ambassador
- Display the Innovation Ambassador seal in your email signature and program-related communications

Benefits to the Department and the University

- Builds community and fosters collaboration and teamwork
- Creates a supportive environment for faculty and staff to think bigger, better and innovate
- Improves morale, job satisfaction, and quality of work
- Spreads excitement about and for innovation
- Helps create a better, stronger UCI through the implementation of innovative, measurable initiatives

Benefits to the Work Reimagined 2.0 Program and Team

- Extends the reach of the WR2.0 program and team into the departmental level
- Facilitates delivery of program news and resources directly to faculty and staff by trusted colleagues
- Helps drive participation in program campaigns and events
- Creates a larger, extended team of like-minded people (innovators) across the University
- Builds a community of innovators who live UCI's founding, pioneering spirit
- Innovation Ambassadors are a valued part of the team, contributing ideas, energy, and enthusiasm that would be missed without their involvement

RECRUITMENT

The Work Reimagined 2.0 Innovation Ambassador program is open to all staff and faculty who have a genuine interest in innovation, and who are willing and able to commit to one year of active participation.

- There is no limit to the number of Innovation Ambassadors in any given year
- All persons may participate regardless of seniority, job title, role, etc.
- Participation should not deter from the operational needs of the organization
- All persons interested in becoming an Innovation Ambassador must communicate their desire to participate with their immediate supervisor, and secure approval to participate in the program for the minimum number of hours (18++) required per the Time Commitment section above
- Official recruitment is open from October 1 – 31 each year, however, new Innovation Ambassadors may sign-up anytime and get involved immediately. We highly encourage partial-

year Innovation Ambassadors to continue through another full term beginning on January 1 of the next year

- The official one year term for Innovation Ambassadors begins January 1 of each year and concludes December 31 of each year
- You may participate as an Innovation Ambassador for any number of years providing you have approval from your immediate supervisor
- We understand that things change; if you cannot complete your term or you need a modification to your role, please discuss it with the Work Reimagined 2.0 Innovation Ambassador liaison and we will either make accommodations or release you from the Ambassador roster
- All new Innovation Ambassadors are expected to participate in the annual Kick-Off luncheon meeting (in-person) in December of each year

REGISTER NOW

Are you an innovation champion? Are you excited to share your passion for innovation with your colleagues? Are you ready to drive UCI into the future? If so, we need you as an Innovation Ambassador!

Register now to become a UCI Innovation Ambassador by completing this form:

<https://uci.questionpro.com/InnovationAmbassadorReg>

SUPPORT

If you have questions, please contact Saroj Sharma, Executive Director, Business Transformation Office, and Work Reimagined 2.0 Innovation Ambassador Liaison 2024/25, at sarojs@uci.edu.

