



June 30, 2006

### **UCLGBTIA Mourns the Loss of Dr. Denice Denton**

The University of California Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender Intersex Association (UCLGBTIA) has been deeply affected by the death of one of our own, the Chancellor of the University of California, Santa Cruz, Dr. Denice Denton.

This loss is particularly palpable to us. Dr. Denton was the first person appointed as a UC Chancellor who was also a member of the LGBT community. That she was the embodiment of this historical moment for the University of California for such a short term only heightens our feelings of bereavement.

Our grief is tempered as we turn our hearts and minds toward expressing support and our deepest sympathy to Gretchen Kalonji, Dr. Denton's life partner, and to the rest of Denice's and Gretchen's families.

The loss of Dr. Denton from the UC family is significant in that it reminds us of the need for greater understanding, compassion and support for all UC students, staff, faculty and administrators regardless of who we are, who we call family or where we may call home. However, as we grieve our loss we are also called to focus on the light of hope from the model of how Dr. Denton lived her life. Her example of professional and academic achievement as an openly lesbian administrator, as a woman in science & engineering, and as a passionate advocate for equality provides a beacon for us all to continue forward in creating a more welcoming University of California for all.

We are grateful for the life of Denice Denton and again we express our deepest sympathy to her partner and surviving family and friends.

Sincerely,

Nancy Tubbs, Chair (UC Riverside)  
Sheri Atkinson, Vice Chair (UC Davis)  
Raquel Bernaldo, Student Chair (UC Riverside)  
Billy Curtis, Secretary (UC Berkeley)

*UCLGBTIA is an official advisory group to the UC Office of the President.*