

The background of the entire page is a dark grey or black color, overlaid with intricate white line art of various botanical elements. These include large, detailed leaves with prominent veins, several different types of flowers (some with multiple petals, some with long, thin petals), and clusters of small, round fruits or seed pods. The line art is scattered across the page, creating a dense, naturalistic pattern.

2023-2024

Impact Report

 UWC
COSTA RICA



To cultivate in young people the passion and ability to serve humanity and our planet—learning *from nature and from each other for a lifetime.*

Bernardo van der Laet
Member

Erik Muñoz
Vice-Chair

Dr. Kevin Ferreira van Leer '09
Secretary

Susan Mullins
Chair

Tom Dickerson, UWC Atlantic '68
Treasurer

Uri Weinstok
Member

Alonso Venegas

Dr. Angel Perez

Antonio Galván

Darlene Fisher

Elke Ruge

Laurie S. Frank

Leonor Tannahuser Blum

Luis Javier Castro

Michael Stern, UWC-USA '89

Renata Villers

Ronald Chang-Díaz

Rosemary Engels

Tim Dougherty

Tracy Robinson

Zdenka Piskulich

Annette Grew

Admissions, Outreach & Innovation Director

Guillermo Chan

Finance and Operations Director

Jose Pablo Rojas-Brewer, UWC-USA '06

Development Director

Lori Marek

Deputy Head of College

Luis Abarca

Co-Curricular Director

Maurício Viales

Head of College

Dr. Natalie Taylor

Residential Life Director

Paula Morán

Academic Director

Sofia Quirós

Sustainability Coordinator

Vanessa Céspedes

Human Resources Director

2023-2024
Leadership

Executive Board

Board of Trustees

Management Team



We Are How We Consume The limited printed run of the 2023-2024 Impact Report uses responsibly sourced paper to provide a report aligned with the Sustainability Framework and Strategic Plan.

This document was designed and produced by the Development Area in collaboration with all College areas.

Navigate this report by clicking on each title or its corresponding page number.

Whether reading physically or virtually, you can interact and access additional information and resources by clicking or scanning any QR code.

UWC Costa Rica © 2024



2023-2024

Impact Report

Find this document in Spanish and digital interactive formats at uwccostarica.org

Year-In-Review

Looking Back with Gratitude	5
Strategic Plan	6

Learning from Nature

Diverse & Accessible Education	10
Academic Achievements	11
Expanding the UWC Costa Rica Mission	12

Learning from Each Other

Growing Outside Classrooms	16
Financial Report	18
Staff Community & Transition to San Isidro	19

Learning for a Lifetime

Enabling Education for All	22
Thank You, Mr. Grieg	26
UWC Costa Rica New Campus	28

Sustainability Embedded Within

These widgets along the Impact Report demonstrate how UWC Costa Rica's efforts follow the Sustainability Framework's Action Lines.



Scan to read the Sustainability Framework
uwccostarica.org/publications

- Nature-Based Education
- Strategy & Governance
- We Are How We Consume
- Architecture, Infrastructure & Landscape
- Alliances & Community Engagement

August, 2023

205 students from 66 countries arrive on campus.



October, 2023

Board of Trustees approves the new Mission, Principles, and Values.

UWC Costa Rica alumni participate at the One Young World Summit.



December, 2023

UWC Costa Rica alumni participate in COP28.



February, 2024

The UWC Movement receives its second Nobel Peace Prize nomination.

UWC Costa Rica delegation participates in the 2024 UWC Congress.



April, 2024

Great Place to Work® certification awarded.

Green Schools National Network joins as a partner.



September, 2023

Students participate in San Isidro's Independence Day Parade.

Third Annual Theory of Knowledge Exhibition.

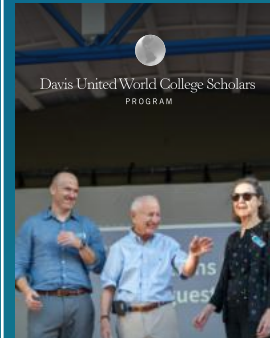
UWC Costa Rica celebrates UWC Day & International Peace Day.



November, 2023

UWC Costa Rica hosts the IB's Festival of Hope.

Grieg Foundation presents full scholarships to nine students.



January, 2024

UWC Costa Rica officially launches its new Mission, Principles, and Values.

Shelby & Gale Davis, and Jake Mnookin of the Davis UWC Scholars Program visit UWC Costa Rica.



March, 2024

The "We Are United" comprehensive campaign officially launches, with special guest Faith Abiodun.

Abundance Circle and CIID join as partners.



Re-live every moment by clicking on each photo or by visiting uwccostarica.org

June & July,
2024

UWC Costa Rica earns Bandera Azul, CIS
reaccreditation, and IB recertification.

A special MOU with the Ministry of
Public Education is established.

MINISTERIO DE
EDUCACIÓN PÚBLICA | GOBIERNO
DE COSTA RICA



Message from Mauricio & Susan

Looking Back with Gratitude

Dear community,

Together, we celebrate the accomplishments of another remarkable year. Our UWC Costa Rica community has continued to thrive, significantly impacting the world.

Unprecedented global challenges, from devastating wars and the destruction of our ecosystems to widespread inequities in education and societies, have marked the past year. These global crises have highlighted the urgent need for compassionate, innovative, and responsible leadership, a call we take to heart daily in our community.

At UWC Costa Rica, we are committed to addressing these pressing issues through education, which is the force that brings us together. Our relaunched Mission is a guiding light, inspiring us to foster a more just, sustainable, and equitable world for all.

One of the most significant milestones of this year has been the groundbreaking of our new campus, which is designed to achieve both LEED Platinum and RESET certification. This project will provide more scholarships for future students in an extraordinary nature-based learning and living environment and set a new standard for sustainable construction worldwide. The campus, now becoming a reality, will have more gathering spaces (a black box theater, a plaza, and an amphitheater) for cultural and community interactions for our neighboring communities and Global UWC alums. It is time we harness the passions and talents of our global UWC network to enact transformative positive change in the world.

We celebrate our adult community's commitment and professional expertise, which has led to significant milestones for our College. Additionally, this year, we welcomed new partners into our community to solidify further our commitment to making nature-based experiential education, innovation, and sustainability an integral part of the dynamic new "living and learning" educational model.

As we look ahead, we are committed to building upon our successes and embracing new challenges. Thank you for your support and trust in us. Together, we will continue to *cultivate in young people* (and each of us) *the passion and abilities to serve humanity and our planet—learning from nature and each other for a lifetime.*

Susan Mullins
Board Chair

Mauricio Viales
Head of College

May, 2024

104 Class of '24 students graduate
and join the 1,409 UWC Costa Rica
Alum community.

Year-In-Review: Strategic Plan

During the second year of the 2022-2027 Strategic Plan, reflections and adjustments were made to optimize available resources without altering the core priorities. Here is a summary of last year's priorities as part of the monitoring and evaluation system, which shares the strategic priorities in which the College invests its resources.

During the second year of this plan, Strategic Line (SL) 1, "Transition to a culture of sustainability," merged with SL2, "Grow our educational model," into a new SL1, "Cultivating a holistic, experiential, and sustainability-based educational model"; this SL emphasizes the connection between the educational model and the Sustainability Framework.

Additionally, a new SL emerged: "Managing a responsible transition to San Isidro" to reflect its complexity and supervised by the Transition Coordinator; however, this SL is a multi-dimensional effort from several areas of the College.



Scan to read the 2022-2027 Strategic Plan
uwcosterica.org/publications

Major progress was made on all five Strategic Lines. This progress can only be realized with a committed team and community contributing their experience and expertise to the College's mission.

With much appreciation, here is a summary of such progress:

SL1 | Cultivating a Holistic, Experiential, and Sustainability-Based Educational Model

Nature-Based Education **Strategy & Governance** Forming a partnership with the Green Schools National Network (GSNN) to develop a more integrated and sustainability-focused educational model, including professional development and stakeholder interviews to incorporate Green Schools' expertise.

[Learn more about "GSNN" on Page 9.](#)

Successfully obtained the **Council for International Schools (CIS) reaccreditation and International Baccalaureate recertification**. Both milestones were achieved with the whole community's involvement and led to a comprehensive review of the College's educational model, operations, and institutional culture, permitting the celebration of all achievements and identifying areas for growth.

Nature-Based Education Improvement of the safeguarding practices, as part of the commitment to **student well-being**, to enable and strengthen the child protection practices and continue ensuring that all adult-student relationships are safe and healthy for both parties.

What is coming in Year 3

- Continue the GSNN Alliance and continue the process of cultivating a new educational model.
- Promote student agency and accountability by supporting student-led activities aligned with the educational model.
- Integrate and implement the CIS/IB Report recommendations into the Strategic and Annual Plans.
- Continue fostering healthy, safe, and meaningful adult-student relationships, and create an action plan for safeguarding, informed by the Safeguarding Committee.

SL2 | Managing a Responsible Transition to the New Campus

Architecture, Infrastructure & Landscape Completion of the **first phase of trails and the advance of earth movement**.

Architecture, Infrastructure & Landscape Beginning the **infrastructure phase**, following an extensive process to select the construction companies.

Architecture, Infrastructure & Landscape Continuation of the **interior and exterior design**, ensuring that every aspect of the construction is aligned with the College's values and end-user experience in alignment with sustainability.

Architecture, Infrastructure & Landscape Close collaboration was established with consultants in design and environmental practices to meet the standards of **LEED and RESET certifications**. [Learn more about "LEED & RESET" on Page 10 of the New Campus Report.](#)

Alliances & Community Engagement Continued **community engagement** activities involving local government, organizations, and educational centers are key to ensuring smooth integration with San Isidro's future neighbors.

Strategy & Governance Started structuring a **transition plan** for staff and their families, addressing logistical and organizational aspects to ensure a smooth transition to San Isidro.

What is coming in Year 3

- Continue strengthening community relations in San Isidro through engagement, collaborations, and reciprocity, in parallel with advancing the preconstruction and construction phases of the new campus.
- Define and implement a transition plan to ensure a smooth, informed, and empathetic process from Santa Ana to San Isidro.



SL3 | Life Balance

Completed **Phase One of the Compensation and Benefits Strategy** to address salary gaps and demonstrated commitment to recognizing and rewarding staff dedication. This phase established a comprehensive framework incorporating internal equity, external competitiveness, and retention factors, enabling informed decisions to reduce the salary gap between local and international faculty.

Strategy & Governance Partnered with **Great Place to Work®** to conduct an organizational climate survey. The survey achieved high participation rates, reflecting a strong commitment to continuously improving the workplace environment and culture. The positive results led to obtaining the **certification as a Great Place to Work®**, validating all efforts to foster a positive work culture while also highlighting areas for improvement in the coming years. [More about Great Place to Work® on Page 19.](#)

Strategy & Governance Conducted a pilot test of the first **performance evaluation system** with area directors, marking the initial step towards a unified performance evaluation system linked to professional development and growth opportunities.

What is coming in Year 3

- Focus on enhancing the current benefits package, aligning them with employee expectations and the college's financial capabilities.
- Implement a comprehensive leadership program for the Management Team and Coordinators and provide the necessary tools to strengthen internal leadership and improve team cohesion and effectiveness.
- Pilot and select a performance evaluation software that enhances an effective, streamlined evaluation process.

SL4 | Alignment of the Financial Model

Strategy & Governance Launched the public phase of **"We Are United,"** a comprehensive campaign for UWC Costa Rica, with impressive success (82% of the goal already reached). [Learn more about "We Are United" on Page 6 of the New Campus Report.](#)

Strategy & Governance Joined the **UWC International Endowment Fund** to secure long-term scholarship capacity for the College.

Strategy & Governance Continued the negotiations for the sale of the **Santa Ana property.**

Alliances & Community Engagement Tested a **new catalog** for the Outreach & Innovation Team and generated important connections with local and international markets, fundamental for diversifying the College's income.

Strategy & Governance Boosted the **marketing and communication efforts** to support the Admissions Area and the Outreach & Innovation Team through integral strategies to strengthen the overall presence of UWC Costa Rica locally, regionally, and globally.



What is coming in Year 3

- Continue securing the donation cash flow while defining the endowment cash flows and donation systems for the Scholarship Endowment Fund.
- Execute the marketing and communications strategy for recruitment, sales, and public relations.
- Increase the College's income through new programs and offerings led by the Outreach & Innovation Team.

SL5 | Integrated and Efficient Systems

Strategy & Governance UWC Costa Rica received **two consultancy proposals** to conduct a comprehensive assessment of the College.

Strategy & Governance Continued gathering information from internal stakeholders to analyze the internal governance and decision-making processes.

Strategy & Governance Implemented **REACH**, a software for managing student residential life, wellness, and safety.

Strategy & Governance Continued the implementation of **Softland**, a finance software.

Strategy & Governance Started two projects to implement a **new management software**: the Strategic Plan and the Finance & Operations Area services.

We Are How We Consume Obtained the **Bandera Azul Ecológica** award under the Climate Change category. This process required the community's effort and commitment to maintenance, purchasing, transportation, and cleaning personnel to support a more systematized environmental management and College-wide sustainability efforts. [Learn more about "Bandera Azul" on Page 13.](#)

What is coming in Year 3

- Gather all the available information from internal stakeholders and process owners related to the organizational governance and current decision-making process at all levels.
- Continue to advance the implementation of management software for other areas.
- Revise the software to follow the student's journey, create the next institutional calendar, and revise the annual planning process.
- (Ongoing) Monitor the progress of **Bandera Azul Ecológica**.
- Begin building the Carbon Neutrality and the Environmental Management Plan 2026-2027.

Group photo of the Class of '25 during UWC Day. September, 2024.



Learning *from* Nature



Nature holds invaluable lessons for us all. Our commitment to learning from nature is deeply rooted in our educational philosophy and guides our approach to curriculum development, campus operations, and community engagement.

Immersing ourselves in the natural world fosters a sense of wonder, curiosity, and respect for the planet. Our students are encouraged to explore the outdoors, engage in hands-on activities, and observe the intricate relationships between living organisms and their environments. Through these experiences, our goal is that they develop a deep appreciation for the beauty and complexity of nature and, in doing so, seek opportunities to continue protecting it.

Our partnership with the **Green Schools National Network (GSNN)** provides valuable resources, expertise, and support as we co-create a more sustainable and holistic educational experience that aligns with our mission, principles, and values. While our future new campus will be an example of responsible and sustainable construction, it will also offer innovative nature-based learning programs for students, staff, and partners beyond. By adopting eco-friendly practices, reducing our energy consumption, and preserving natural habitats, we are demonstrating our dedication to environmental stewardship. Learning from nature is essential to cultivating a sense of global citizenship. By understanding the interconnectedness of all living things, we can develop greater empathy for people from different cultures and backgrounds.



Scan to read about
Green Schools
National Network
uwccostarica.org/blog



**GREEN SCHOOLS
NATIONAL NETWORK**

#ImpactPartners

Diverse & Accessible Education

205 students

66 countries

Countries Represented during the Academic Year

Australia | Bahamas
 Barbados | Belarus
 Belgium | Belize | Bhutan
 Bolivia | Botswana | Brazil
 Burkina Faso | Canada
 Cayman Islands | Chile
 China | Colombia
 Costa Rica | Democratic Republic of Congo
 Denmark
 Dominican Republic
 Ecuador | El Salvador
 Estonia | Finland | France
 Germany | Great Britain
 Greece | Guatemala
 Guyana | Honduras
 India Indonesia | Israel
 Italy | Jamaica | Japan
 Kyrgyz Republic
 Lithuania | Luxembourg
 Mexico | Morocco
 Myanmar | Nepal
 Netherlands
 New Zealand | Nicaragua
 Nigeria | Norway
 Paraguay | Philippines
 Portugal
 Russian Federation
 Rwanda | Spain
 Switzerland | Taiwan
 Trinidad and Tobago
 Tunisia | Turkey | Uganda
 Ukraine | Uruguay | USA
 Venezuela | Vietnam

Geographic Distribution

Europe	31%
Latin America & The Caribbean	28%
Asia	19%
North America	8%
Africa	7%
Middle East & North Africa	5%
Asia Pacific	2%



44%

In 91 Partial Scholarships

36%

In 74 Full Scholarships

20%

40 Full Fee Tuitions

165 students benefited from scholarships

UWC Costa Rica National Committee

125 applications received
 23 students nominated to the UWC movement
 15 partial scholarships awarded
 Eight full scholarships awarded
 Representation of 5 out of 7 Costa Rica provinces
 \$207,817 contributed to UWC Costa Rica



Over

900

people discovered the UWC Costa Rica

experiential learning model

via the Outreach & Innovation program

Admission Process

The intentional diversity in the admissions process is reflected by the number of nationalities on campus and the diverse backgrounds each student represents, from socio-economic diversity to students from social, religious, and politically tense areas or with an internally displaced person due to conflict or environmental migration. UWC Costa Rica's enrollment process aims to achieve this vision

by adhering to strategic targets that foster economic diversity and global representation.

The Costa Rica National Committee (Costa Rica NC) named Jordy Farrier SEA'13 its new chair. During the 2023-2024 recruitment process, the Costa Rica NC secured increased financial contributions to nominate 23 Costa Rican students to the UWC Movement.

The Admissions Area continued to collaborate strongly with the wellness and medical teams, ensuring that nominees were

thoroughly interviewed to prioritize their well-being, aligning with the goals of the Student Academic Success System for Youth (SASSY) program.



A major highlight was the expansion of the Programa Acceso Educativo (PAE) or Educational Access Program scholarship in Latin America; Venezuela joins the nine PAE country cohort: Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Guatemala, Mexico, Nicaragua, and Panama.

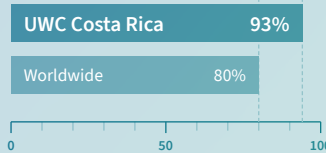


Scan to learn about the admissions process
uwccostarica.org/apply

Academic Achievements

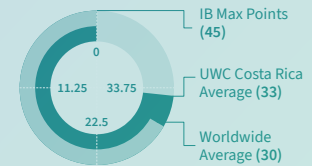
Class of 2024 International Baccalaureate (IB) Results

Pass Rate

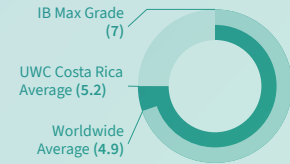


Diploma Candidates: 99
 Diplomas Obtained: 92

Average Points

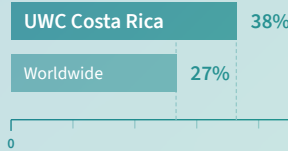


Average Grade



0.11 Overall discrepancy between predicted grades and actual student performance across all subject areas

Bilingual IB Diplomas



I am infinitely grateful for the support I receive from the PAE scholarship, as it provides the opportunity to attend one of the United World Colleges, which has been a transformative experience in all aspects of my life. This opportunity has allowed me to grow academically and personally, expand my perspectives through a diverse community, and strive to contribute positively to my community.

Gabriela '25 from México. Grieg Scholar.

Coming to UWC changed my life. It opened the doors to a range of possibilities that I had not been able to experience before. It made me discover aspects of myself that I had not contemplated, and it is definitely the trip of a lifetime. I am infinitely grateful to the PAE scholarship for giving me the possibility to reach the land of opportunity.

Freddy '25 from Venezuela. Grieg Scholar.

Expanding the UWC Costa Rica Mission

The Outreach & Innovation programs aim to extend the reach of UWC Costa Rica's transformative educational experiences to a broader community of learners. The program offers diverse initiatives that enrich the educational landscape by forming strategic partnerships with schools, universities, and organizations locally and internationally.

Each program contributes to the College's financial sustainability. These initiatives generate additional revenue streams to support the core educational mission by offering fee-paying outreach programs and securing grants and sponsorships while enhancing UWC Costa Rica's presence to attract new students to the movement.

14
national & international partners collaborated with UWC Costa Rica

\$169,000
raised for the financial sustainability of the College

19
experiential learning activities

How Outreach & Innovation expands the UWC Costa Rica Mission: Festival de la Esperanza



Nature-Based Education Alliances & Community Engagement

In November 2023, a dynamic, multi-location, and first-ever Spanish-spoken edition brought together the International Baccalaureate (IB) community across Costa Rica. With a remarkable 36% participation rate of all IB institutions in the country, "Festival de la Esperanza" welcomed representatives from 17 public and eight private schools convened at the San Isidro and Santa Ana campuses for a unique experience focused on pedagogical advancement and student leadership.

A Space to Develop Agents of Change & Sustainability

An intensive 21-hour training (10 virtual, 11 on-site) empowered students to become catalysts for positive change in their communities. The event culminated in a vibrant project fair at the Santa Ana Campus, where students showcased their innovative ideas and teachers served as supportive coaches. This provided a valuable opportunity for networking and collaboration among educators and students from diverse backgrounds. Olli-Pekka Heinonen, General Director of the IB, and a delegation of over 18 IBO representatives joined the festival.

Not only students participated. An interactive workshop also brought together educators to explore the UWC Costa Rica Sustainability Framework. Through dynamic discussions, participants shared best practices and delved into the challenges and opportunities facing education concerning sustainability.

21
hours of Agents of Change training

Participating High Schools
Academia Teocali | Blue Valley School | Colegio de Bagaces | Colegio de Santa Ana | Colegio Gregorio José Ramírez Castro | Colegio Miravalle | The European School | Franz Liszt Schule | Liceo de Cariari | Liceo de Poás | Liceo de Puriscal | Liceo de San Carlos | Liceo Experimental Bilingüe de Palmares | Liceo Santo Domingo de Heredia | Saint Francis College | Saint Mary School | The British School of Costa Rica | Yorkin School

"I have nothing but gratitude for the wonderful experience you allowed me to have; it's a day I will never forget."
Aarón Gutiérrez, Liceo Experimental Bilingüe de Palmares' student



Learning from Nature: Achieving Bandera Azul

Bandera Azul Ecológica Award, a prestigious recognition for responsible environmental management.

Nature-Based Education **We Are How We Consume** The steps to achieve this award involve meticulous data collection to assess the institution's performance across nine key parameters.

The initiative engaged students, staff, and the broader community in collaborative efforts to cultivate a sustainable culture. Systematized sustainability practices have been implemented in various areas and programs of the College, especially with the Maintenance, Procurement, Transportation, and Cleaning teams, to optimize environmental management and reduce the College's ecological footprint.



Water Reduced consumption of 25,000 liters <small>2022 to 2023</small>	Waste Management Waste is weighed daily Trainings: students & staff Recycling through RESIN8* <small>*Learn more by clicking here or visiting uwccostarica.org/sustainability</small>	Sustainable Purchases Criteria defined for sustainable procurement Change to more sustainable products	Offsetting 56 offsetting and reduction actions & environmental education activities <small>to offset carbon emissions like tree-planting, soil regeneration, and river and ocean clean-ups.</small>	
Water Treatment Systematic wastewater treatment cleaning	Electricity Developed monthly consumption data collection	Fossil Fuels Monthly data collection on institutional vehicles	Refrigerating Gases Registered all systems (like A/Cs and refrigerators.)	Adaptation Defined plan for climate-induced emergencies




 Scan to read the Sustainability Framework
uwccostarica.org/publications

"Obtaining the Bandera Azul Ecológica, Climate Change category, marks an important milestone in our environmental management process. This was made possible thanks to the efforts of all teams, students and staff. Special thanks to our Cleaning tíos, Maintenance tíos and General Services team (Kitchen, Procurement, Transport, IT) for the sustained actions and additional efforts they have made that have allowed us to get here.

*This is a big step forward as an institution committed to sustainability and reciprocity with nature, but we still have a way to go. Next year, we're starting with our next environmental management goal: Carbon Neutrality for 2028. I hope this motivates us to continue improving and systematizing actions. **THANK YOU, teams. This would not be possible without the commitment of all.***

Sofía Quirós, Sustainability Coordinator.



Students celebrating at *Festival de la Esperanza*. November, 2024.



Learning *from* Each Other



At UWC Costa Rica, learning is not a two-year experience in or outside the classroom but a commitment for a lifetime. Embracing the principle of learning from each other, we create a dynamic and supportive learning environment where students can reach their full potential and become active contributors to a more peaceful and sustainable world.

The partnership with the **International Baccalaureate (IB)** is a cornerstone of our commitment to providing a world-class education that fosters critical thinking, intercultural understanding, and lifelong learning. The IB's learner profile emphasizes open-mindedness, empathy, and curiosity; values are also demonstrated and aligned with the UWC Costa Rica mission, principles, and values.

By embracing the IB's inquiry-based approach to learning, we create a dynamic and collaborative environment where students are encouraged to explore complex ideas, ask thought-provoking questions, and learn from each other's perspectives. The IB's emphasis on critical thinking and problem-solving skills equips our students with the tools to navigate a rapidly changing world and contribute to positive social change.

This IB partnership means more opportunities for students to connect with a global community of learners. By strengthening the principle of learning from each other, we are fulfilling our commitment to providing high-quality education and preparing students to become aware and inspired to contribute to a more peaceful and sustainable world.



Scan to learn
about *Festival
de la Esperanza*
uwccostarica.org/outreach



Festival de la Esperanza

#ImpactPartners

Growing Outside Classrooms

6,230
hours of positive social impact

Community Action Week:

- 12 different projects
- Across all provinces of Costa Rica
- 238 students & staff participated

1,094
hours of
Wellness Support
provided to students

80
hours
dedicated to
community building

Pool Days, 1st Years Camp & Farewell Week Activities

66
hours
of
wellness training

with students, residence meetings, and staff trainings



17
Student-led activities

44
Outings across Costa Rica

- 8 Residence outings
- 23 Co-Curricular trips
- 13 trips on six Experiential Fridays



Aerial Silks | ARDEI | Art Appreciation Club | Asian Dance | Basketball CAS | Better Football CAS | Card Games CAS | CAS Helpers | CASferial | Chess | Climate Action | Coding CAS | Content Creation CAS | Cosmetics for our community | Crossfit CAS | Creative writing | Cycling CAS | Development CAS | Duka | Eco bricks | Educación ambiental | Film Production | Fortissimo | French | English Classes | Football CAS | Global Issues | Graphic

23,435
CAS hours across 54 experiences

Novelists | Greenhouse | Healthy Masculinities | Hiking CAS | Jiu Jitsu CAS | Language Support CAS | Lifting hands | MUN CAS | Music CAS | Music Ensemble | NC Helpers | Origami CAS | Pen-Pals | Philosophy CAS | Rethinking Waste | Rhymers' Poetry Club | Self defense CAS | Spectrum | Swimming CAS | Table Tennis CAS | Urban/Contemporary Dance | Volleyball CAS | Wilderness CAS | Write for Rights | Yoga CAS



Experiential Fridays

Learning from Each Other through experiential learning.

Nature-Based Education Following UWC Costa Rica's experiential learning model, Experiential Fridays invites the community to further intellectual and creative exploration outside the classrooms in one-day educational field trips and activities related to their International Baccalaureate (IB) subjects.



During the 2023-2024 academic year, the six Experiential Fridays offered diverse opportunities for students to engage in extracurricular learning beyond the traditional classroom setting. These experiences encompassed a range of topics, including film forums examining Latin American immigration, explorations of temporary art installations on the San

Isidro Campus, and visits to one of the nation's largest television studios. Each experience fostered student learning through interactions with nature and their peers, promoting knowledge exchange and mutual growth.



Experiential Friday with the Board of Trustees

Nature-Based Education UWC Costa Rica Board of Trustees (BoT) members, students, and teaching staff participated in hands-on biomimicry activities during the October Board Meeting.

Teachers and Laurie Frank (BoT) led participants to create a biodigester pack. This workshop provided a tangible example of how experiential learning can bring the College's mission to life. By engaging in practical activities, students and Board members alike gained a deeper understanding of sustainable practices and the importance of environmental stewardship.

This activity was a great example whereby Strategic Lines (SL1 and SL2) converge, fostering collaboration and knowledge sharing between teaching staff, students, and the Board.



Wellbeing Spaces

Putting Empathy, Reciprocity, and Accountability into practice.

Nature-Based Education The Wellbeing Spaces Project aims to create a student-centered approach to wellbeing. In partnership with Wellbeing Ambassadors, students propose and lead activities based on their needs and interests. These activities cover art and Reflection, Healthy Lifestyles, Identity, Sexuality, and Time Management. Each activity aims to promote voluntary participation and create a supportive environment.



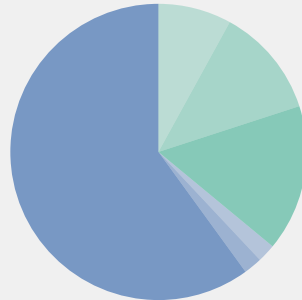
The Agents of Change (AoC) Camp offers our students inspiring experiences to motivate them to deliver positive social impact. In this on-campus event, students choose among the paths of social entrepreneurship, STEM, or activism/advocacy to ideate projects to make a change, with the possibility of turning them into real-world projects in their communities or on-campus.

"Being a leader at the Agents of Change Camp deepened my understanding of why education can be seen as a powerful unifying force. By sharing our perspectives and learning from each other, we discovered that truly powerful and valuable learning occurs through connection and collaboration. Together, we can break down barriers and build stronger communities."

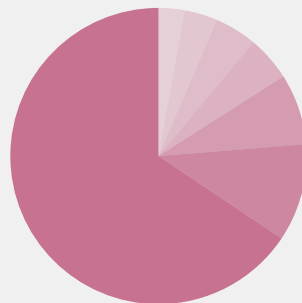
Jatniel 24' from Venezuela

Financial Sustainability

Strategy & Governance With the beginning of construction for the new campus and implementing policies and procedures to strengthen internal controls, 2023-2024 was a year with more new projects, events, and educational activities than in previous years. During this transition to the new campus, it is crucial to consider what needs to be accomplished over the next year to ensure a smooth transition and a strong start in a new environment. This involves documenting outstanding procedures and protocols, rethinking current operations at the Santa Ana campus, and anticipating workload increases that may require additional staffing.



Total Revenue: \$5,622,527



Total Expenses: \$6,244,508

Revenues increased by 3.4%, while expenses rose by 8.4%.

This highlights the need for heightened financial efficiency to offset the rise in expenditures driven by the organic growth and the ongoing transition to the new campus in San Isidro.

Earned Revenue

Tuition from Families	\$3,400,102	60%
Bank Interests and other income	\$139,738	2%
Outreach Programs and Rentals	\$104,080	2%
Sub-Total Earned Revenue	\$3,643,919	65%

Contributed Revenue

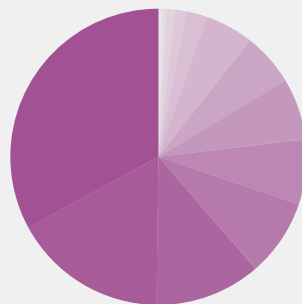
Income from National Committees	\$908,461	16%
UWC Network Donations	\$684,800	12%
Fundraising	\$385,864	7%
Sub-Total Contributed Revenue	\$1,978,608	35%

Total Expenses

Educational Programs	\$4,097,014	64%
Administrative	\$664,738	11%
Maintenance	\$484,024	8%
Development	\$305,357	5%
Admissions	\$287,060	5%
Utilities and Insurance	\$226,877	4%
UWC International Fee	\$179,438	3%

Fundraising

The Impact Fund donors giving less than \$5,000 raised 37% more than in 2022-2023, showing us that what matters most is not how much we can each contribute as individuals but **the impact we raise when we give together as a community!**



Total Raised: \$385,864

Impact Fund Donor Amount

Alums	39%	Alum Families	5%
Families	17%	Anonymous	2%
Students	12%	Individual	
Individuals	8%	Major Donors	
BoT	7%	& Corporate	2%
Staff	7%	Foundations	1%

Staff Community: Nurturing the Best Place to Work and Learn



The only certified educational institution in Costa Rica!

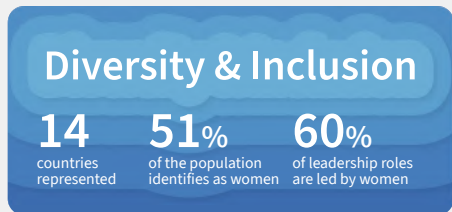
Achieving this certification validates the efforts to create a positive workplace and highlights opportunities for future growth. It also reflects the ongoing commitment to diversity and inclusion and the core UWC Costa Rica values of empathy and reciprocity, fostering a culture of mutual respect and shared responsibility.

Hear it from the team members:

Strategy & Governance In partnership with Great Place to Work®, 2023-2024 was a year to participate in the first organizational climate survey. This initiative was part of the commitment to building the best work environment. The high participation rates in the survey reflect the team's dedication to continuous improvement.



UWC Costa Rica is proud to share that the College is certified as a Great Place to Work®.



Managing a Responsible Transition to San Isidro

During the second quarter of 2024, UWC Costa Rica initiated a comprehensive transition process focused on strategic thinking, process optimization, and leadership onboarding.

Adopting the **Bridges Transition Model**, the Transition Coordinator conducted extensive internal assessments, investing over 120 hours in meetings and data collection to establish a baseline understanding of the College's current state.

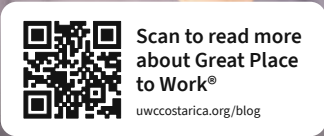
In May, in collaboration with the College leadership, a shared vision and defined expectations were set for this transition.



"The enormous cultural diversity of our College invites us to keep an open mind and teaches us to respect differences. Here, we value academic excellence and the integral development of our students and staff. I love the collaborative environment between the different work teams, where we welcome creativity and innovation with open arms."

I am inspired by those colleagues who passionately embrace our values as an institution and believe that education is a fundamental pillar for development. I value open communication channels; I value that our voices are heard. We know that as an organization, we can still do things to improve; however, we always strive for the positive and continue working to benefit our community as a team."

Karla Salazar, Librarian.



Scan to read more about Great Place to Work®
uwccostarica.org/blog

Alums celebrating during Graduation. May, 2024.





Learning *for a* Lifetime



At UWC Costa Rica, education is a lifelong journey that empowers individuals (yes, even non-alums!) to reach their full potential and positively impact the world. Our commitment to providing access to quality education is reflected in our scholarship programs, which enable talented and motivated students from diverse backgrounds to pursue their academic and personal goals no matter their socio-economic background.

We are grateful for the generous support of our scholarship partners, who share our vision of fostering a more just and equitable world through education. Our scholarship programs are made possible by the contributions of organizations like The Grieg Foundation and the David UWC Scholar Program for their university opportunities. Funds and scholarships provided by the UWC International Office, UWC Refugee Initiative, Raise Scholarships, Dare to Dream and Dare to Dream 2, and all the National Committees, working together to bring assistance and accessibility for students to experience the UWC Costa Rica educational model.

Our students' education is a foundation for their learning for a lifetime. UWC Costa Rica alums pursue successful careers, contribute to their communities, and become field leaders in their personal, local, regional, and international spaces. Because of their choice to join UWC Costa Rica, they appreciate the transformative power of education. We are immensely grateful to our scholarship partners for their support and commitment to continue positively changing the lives of students eager to contribute to the world and our planet.

 Scan to read about UWC Costa Rica's partnerships
uwccostarica.org

#ImpactPartners



Enabling Education for All

\$385,864
raised for the Impact Fund
(Scholarships + Operations)

\$10,000
raised by alums
60% more compared to last year!

77% of all donors amplified their impact with
monthly donations

224
donors contributed to the
Impact Fund

Class of '11 & '12
with the most participation!



"Through the embrace of diverse cultures and the forging of global friendships, I've discovered that the path to self-discovery is illuminated by the light of understanding and acceptance."

—Naja '24 from Guyana.



58
students started their university journey with a scholarship through the Davis UWC Scholar Program



Over
600
university applications submitted

Support the Mission!
uwccostarica.org/give



Scan to visit the giving portal!

Thanks to you, dreams turn into reality, challenges into opportunities, and passions into action. A donation to UWC Costa Rica promises a more prosperous and just future; it is a promise to protect humanity and the planet; it is a promise of hope. Thank you for furthering the mission.

On behalf of the UWC Costa Rica community:
¡Muchas gracias!

Alums: Learners for a Lifetime

Nature-Based Education Since 2006, UWC Costa Rica has proudly graduated 1,409 alums from 129 countries. Alums are making a real difference worldwide, tackling challenges like climate change, social inequality, and access to education. Whether working in sustainability, education, technology, or governance, UWC Costa Rica alums are living the mission to serve humanity and the planet.

Alums are becoming leaders in their fields and addressing some of the world's biggest challenges. They are working in line with global priorities set by the **Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)**, the **World Health Organization (WHO)**, and the **United Nations (UN)**, taking on roles in **Sustainable Development, Global Health, Poverty Reduction, and Renewable Energies.**



With 552 alums working in fields of high global impact, UWC Costa Rica's reach spreads across politics, science and research, innovation, finance, technology, education, nonprofit management, arts, advocacy, and more.



Scan to watch the UWC Costa Rica Impact Stories

We celebrate every alum pathway as we believe every alum is an ambassador of transformative positive change in the world.



1,409 Alums

66%

are connected to UWC Costa Rica on LinkedIn



Alums, connect with us! [/school/uwccostarica](https://www.linkedin.com/company/school/uwccostarica)

80%

are part of the UWC Costa Rica Alum Facebook group



Join the group by visiting [uwccostarica.org/alums](https://www.facebook.com/uwccostarica.org/alums)

26%

are registered on the UWC Hub



Join the conversation by visiting [uwccostarica.org/alums](https://www.uwccostarica.org/alums)

The Power of Lifelong Commitment: Class Agents

A big part of all engagement efforts is the Class Agent Initiative. The eight Class Agents are essential to keeping alums connected with the College. They act as the bridge that keeps the community alive, and through them, we get to highlight alum stories, celebrate their successes, and show the lasting impact of a UWC education.

Get Involved!



Send us a quick message at alumnicoordinator@uwccostarica.org

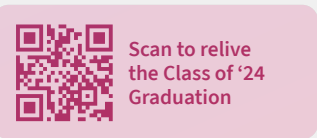
UWC Costa Rica Impact Stories

The UWC Costa Rica Impact Stories showcase the extraordinary pathways of our Alums during and after their two years at our College. Produced by alum Andrés Bronnimann '13 from Costa Rica, each story shows how every student at UWC Costa Rica continues their learning beyond the two-year experience.

"I went through much personal growth as a result of UWC. I ended up not becoming an engineer and doing a much more theoretical degree. And now working on things that I would argue have a pretty broad social impact are [...] all based on that kind of individual formative experience at UWC."

Max von Hippel '15 from the United States.

“The Determined Generation”



For the self-proclaimed "Determined Generation," this day was not just about the end of their time at UWC Costa Rica but the beginning of the next chapter in their lives. It was a day filled with love, connection, and hope for the future as they stepped out into the world with the values they had learned here, ready to make their mark.

May 19, 2024

Centro de Convenciones CIC ANDE, Belén, Heredia.

104 students graduate UWC Costa Rica, becoming learners for a lifetime and part of the UWC Alum community.



Awards & Recognitions

Educator Awards

Barry Cowell and Juan Diego Martinez

OLA Awards

Albany Parra, Alexandra Jones, Amna Soua, Barak Shwartzzorgen, Bryan Bonilla, Carla Fontaine, Elvira Ramos, Fatima Mukasa, Gerardo Selva, Hung Nguyen, Iona Hamilton, Jatniel Sanchez, Karymar Ureña, Kristha Imeri, Laura Rodríguez, Lisa von Arx, Luis Zelaya, Madison Jordan, Maëlyss Godest, Markus Luik, Sanaa Elcock, Yair Shamir

ERA Award

Campbell Taylor, representing UWC Costa Rica’s values of **Empathy, Reciprocity, and Accountability**. The award honors a student who embodies the institution’s core values across Academics, Co-Curricular, and Residential Life.



1,200 people enjoyed graduation online!
650 guests joined for graduation, the biggest ceremony yet!



Future Pathways of Class of '24

Gap Year Outcomes

Alliances & Community Engagement Most alums approach their gap years thoughtfully, with specific objectives for growth in mind. Many travel, spend time with their families in different countries, and accomplish life tasks such as earning a driver's license. Some examples of more formalized experiences students embark on are an internship with **IB Festival of Hope in Vietnam**, **French and Spanish immersion programs**, **work in an art gallery**, **teaching in a preschool**, **military service**, **activism in Breton politics and education**, **participating in a Theater Club**, and **becoming an au pair in different countries in Asia**.

Beyond University Applications

Each year, alums receive support in application processes to universities (for gap-year students) and programs, internships, or fellowships. Some examples of successful applications during the 2023-2024 year are the **Shucker Fellowship Program** at Furman University, a job with **Ocean Plastics Recovery** in Alaska, and New York University and **St. Olaf College**.


\$13,000,000
was offered to the Class of '24 for University Scholarships

88
students will attend university after UWC Costa Rica.



15
students will seek Gap Year Opportunities and continue university matriculations.

55%
of students received scholarships from the Davis UWC Scholar Program.



Class of 2024 University Matriculation

- | | | |
|---------------------------------|--|------------------------------------|
| Amsterdam University College | Lake Forest College | Trinity College |
| Babson College | Lewis & Clark College | Trinity College Dublin |
| Bard College | Loughborough University | Tufts University |
| Bates College | Macalester College | University Leiden Campus The Hague |
| Boston University | Methodist University | University of Amsterdam |
| Bucknell University | Minerva University | University of California, Davis |
| Case Western Reserve University | New York University | University of Chicago |
| Clark University | Northwestern University | University of Edinburgh |
| Colby College | Purdue University | University of Florida |
| Colgate University | Santa Clara University | University of Leeds |
| Colorado College | Sapienza University | University of Oklahoma |
| Davidson College | Savannah College of Art and Design | University of Southern California |
| Furman University | School of the Art Institute of Chicago | University of St Thomas |
| George Washington University | Sciences Po | University of Toronto |
| Goucher College | Smith College | University of Victoria |
| Goucher University | St. Lawrence University | Vanderbilt University |
| Hampshire College | St. Olaf College | Vassar College |
| John Cabot University | Stanford University | Worcester Polytechnic Institute |
| | Syracuse University | |



"The Future Pathways office was a great help when looking at College possibilities. I don't think Bowdoin would have been on my radar without them. Bowdoin has allowed me to continue pursuing a broad variety of interests while also diving into sustainability. After working with the UWC Costa Rica greenhouse it is a joy to continue that pursuit here at the Bowdoin Organic Garden. Clubs like Sunrise at Bowdoin have given me the chance to connect with local environmental organizations in Maine and join a larger community that shares my interests and goals."

Isabelle Zink '23 from United States, Davis UWC Scholar.

Thank You, Mr. Grieg

It was through his advocacy and initial funding that UWC Costa Rica was created from an SOS Children's Village High School. That support has only deepened over the years. His life and his legacy are an inspiration for us all.

Per Grieg Sr. was born in Bergen in January 1932. He came from a long and proud maritime tradition. The Grieg family has lived by and of the ocean since 1884. After completing his degree in marine engineering, Per joined the family shipbroking firm in 1961. He expanded and transformed the Grieg Group into a leading international business within the maritime industry, operating within seafood, shipping, shipbroking, maritime innovation, logistics, and investment.

Today, the Grieg Group has more than 1,600 colleagues worldwide. Per Grieg Sr. led the Grieg Group until 1999, when he handed over the business to his four children.

Per was a philanthropist with an urge to make a difference and create a more compassionate society. He founded the Grieg Foundation in 2002 and ran the Foundation until 2020. Per was an active member of the Board until his passing. The Grieg Foundation has contributed more than 1 billion Norwegian kroner to charitable causes, nationally and internationally. He had a lifelong commitment and engagement to the Foundation's main purpose, **to support children and young people's opportunity to create a better future.**

The Grieg Foundation, under the leadership of Mr. Grieg, was critically instrumental in the founding and funding of UWC Costa Rica through those important foundational years. Over 1,300 alums' education has as its cornerstone the belief and faith of Per Grieg Sr. and the Foundation in UWC Costa Rica. In addition, in 2015, the Foundation played a crucial role in conversations with SOS International, who donated the current UWC Costa Rica campus property in Santa Ana. Most recently, the Foundation has underscored the importance of expanding the Latin American and Caribbean student support by sponsoring three cohorts of 9 Grieg Foundation Scholars who have received inclusive scholarships to attend UWC Costa Rica. Furthermore, The Grieg Foundation is a proud major supporter of the New Campus project for UWC Costa Rica and continues to partner with us to meet both organizations' missions further.

It has been said that **"the measure of a life is the love you leave behind when you're gone."** Per lived his life in full measure. Per was a warm, wise human being who enriched and inspired us all. May peace and blessings shine upon his memory.

UWC Costa Rica Grieg Scholars 2023-2025

Deepa Sapkota '25 | Nepal

Freddy Alejandro García Rivero '25 | Venezuela

Gabriela Guadalupe Madrazo Torres '25 | Mexico

Gianpaolo Wible Ramírez '25 | Costa Rica

Lucía Villegas Rojas '25 | Costa Rica

María Jose Peña Alfaro '25 | Costa Rica

Mariana Rincón Rivera '25 | Colombia

Natali Citlalli Reyes Olvera '25 | Mexico

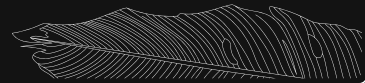
Zabdiel Adair Gómez Lacán '25 | Guatemala

UWC COSTA RICA

In honor of Elna and Per Grieg

"All humans have equal value and deserve the opportunity to pursue their dreams, no matter their culture and background."
—Grieg Foundation

November, 2023




Scan to learn about Per Grieg Sr. Legacy
uwccostarica.org/blog



An Opportunity of a Lifetime

You have reached the end of the 2023-2024 Impact Report!
Continue exploring the New Campus Report.

    @uwccostarica

 uwccostarica.org

UWC Costa Rica New Campus

Since its opening in 2006, close to 1,500 alums and current students have experienced the UWC Costa Rica experiential learning model in Santa Ana downtown, a campus inherited from SOS Villages and adapted for the UWC lifestyle. As the College has evolved over the years, the ambition and possibilities of expanding the impact and accessibility to UWC Costa Rica grew alongside it, and thanks to the sheer generosity of Rose-Marie and Eijk van Otterloo, UWC Costa Rica was able to start the dream of building a new campus aligned with its mission, principles, and values.

Reference image, not final design. Published on September, 2024.



Scan to learn
more about the
New Campus
uwccostarica.org/newcampus









Getting Around Campus

- 1 Black Box Theater
- 2 Braulio Carrillo National Park
- 3 Staff Residential Area
- 4 Main Building
- 5 Sports Center
- 6 Student's Residential Area
- 7 Learning Spaces
- 8 Sustainability & Innovation Center



An Opportunity of a Lifetime

You have reached the beginning of the New Campus Report!

    @uwccostarica

 uwccostarica.org

2024 | January - July

New Campus Report



Section of UWC Costa Rica New Campus' walking trails. 2024.





We Are How We Consume The limited printed run of the New Campus Report uses responsibly sourced paper to provide a report aligned with the Sustainability Framework and Strategic Plan.

2024 | January - July

New Campus Report

Find this document in Spanish and digital interactive formats at uwccostarica.org

Campaign Year-In Review

Construction Launch!	5
Launch of the “We Are United” Comprehensive Campaign	6

United for Education

Design & Construction	10
-----------------------	----

United in Peace

Engaging with the San Isidro Community	14
--	----

United with Nature

Nature & Biodiversity	18
-----------------------	----

United with Costa Rica

Supporters & Partners	23
Supporters & Partners	25

This document was designed and produced by the Development Area in collaboration with all College areas.

Navigate this report by clicking on each title or its corresponding page number.

Whether reading physically or virtually, you can interact and access additional information and resources by clicking or scanning any QR code.

UWC Costa Rica © 2024



Sustainability Embedded Within

These widgets along the New Campus Report demonstrate how UWC Costa Rica’s efforts follow the Sustainability Framework’s Action Lines.



- Nature-Based Education
- Strategy & Governance
- We Are How We Consume
- Architecture, Infrastructure & Landscape
- Alliances & Community Engagement

February, 2024

Community Action Week: Students volunteer at the Nuestra Señora de los Ángeles Nursing Home.



April, 2024

UWC Costa Rica hosts the outgoing and incoming San Isidro City Councils at both campuses.

UWC Costa Rica acquires an adjacent property in San Isidro, a future home for the campus Distribution Center.



June, 2024

Lead architects continue the building and Master Plan designs.



January, 2024

Construction officially begins in San Isidro.

Shelby & Gale Davis, and Jake Mnookin of the Davis UWC Scholars Program visit UWC Costa Rica.



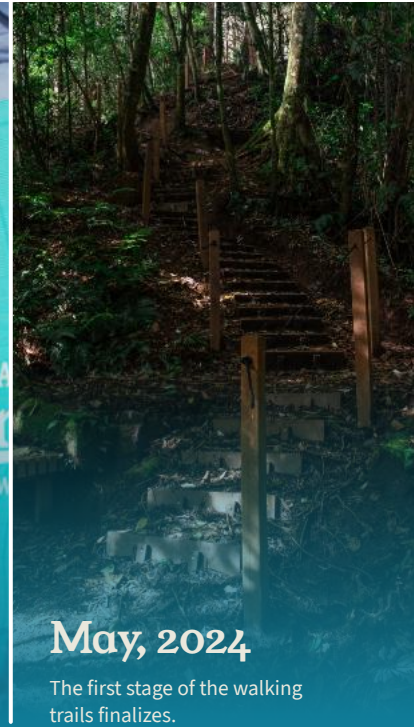
March, 2024

The “We Are United” comprehensive campaign officially launches, with special guest Faith Abiodun.



May, 2024

The first stage of the walking trails finalizes.



Construction Launch!

UWC Costa Rica set out to build a new campus that could fulfill UWC Movement’s vision to “make education a force to unite people, nations, and cultures for peace and a sustainable future” and exemplify UWC Costa Rica’s commitment to sustainable development and climate action from a local to a global context.

Over the past 25 years Costa Rica has become a global leader in environmental conservation and sustainable development. The country’s significant efforts in leading climate change discussions have been recognized by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), awarding the 2019 Champions of the Earth Award, one of the highest environmental honors, for its leadership in policy implementation to protect nature and its commitment to tackling climate change.

This new campus will give a powerful opportunity for each student to solidify their commitment to nature, to each other, and to all communities we serve by developing a deep correspondence of our surroundings, context, and diverse ecosystems. This new campus is the opportunity for students to continue learning and enabling a positive impact on the world.

In this way, Costa Rica’s dedication to promoting sustainable development for all generations aligns with UWC’s mission and encourages us, as a College, to be part of this remarkable effort. Thus, we will become a UWC College campus with a sustainable infrastructure where students can acquire critical and independent approaches toward current learning paradigms and sustainability challenges through innovative education and social transformation.

To do this, we must be bold, breaking preconceived paradigms and supporting a holistic approach to climate change and a carbon-neutral future. UWC Costa Rica aspires to foster a new generation of sustainable leaders trained with pedagogical content focused on sustainability and reciprocity where all areas of the campus generate a learning experience and provide knowledge of what sustainability and environmental responsibility should look like.

“How do you lead authentically as a school built around sustainability? First, you develop your own sustainability framework, you build a curriculum around it, and you build an entire campus around the concept of sustainability and reciprocity with the environment,[...] that’s not typical in education!”

Faith Abiodun. Executive Director, UWC International.



July, 2024

Earth movements progress at 71% of completion.

Campaign Year-In Review: Launch of the “We Are United” Comprehensive Campaign

March 14, 2024

Casa Solera, Barrio La California, San José.

On March 14, 2024, UWC Costa Rica launched the We Are United Comprehensive Campaign with an immersive, inspirational, and sensorial event at Casa Solera. The experience guided attendees through different rooms, each symbolizing UWC Costa Rica's mission and principles: Learning from Nature, Learning from Each Other, and Learning for a Lifetime. The design of the event created an emotional and educational journey that allowed guests to deeply engage with the institution's values.



Scan to learn more about the official launch
uwccostarica.org/blog

Alliances & Community Engagement The event was attended by 95 guests, including influential political, educational, and social leaders of Costa Rica. Faith Abiodun, Executive Director of UWC International and the UWC Costa Rica Board also attended the event. The true showstoppers were the dozen of students who showcased their talents and impactful stories; all inspired by this exciting milestone in UWC Costa Rica's history: a future new campus with access for more scholars, direct interactions with nature, and multiple spaces to innovate and co-create with local and global communities.





Photo Galleries

A showcase of student and alum photos highlighted the ongoing impact of UWC Costa Rica in personal and professional lives. These galleries emphasized the long-term influence of UWC's education and mission.



San Isidro Campus Room

Attendees were given a preview of the new San Isidro de Heredia campus, with an experiential recreation of the iconic bridge over the lake and a tribute to the area's biodiversity, focusing on endemic frog species. This room also spotlighted the campus' sustainability achievements, including RESET and LEED certifications.



Student Participation

UWC Costa Rica students acted as hosts and performers, leading attendees through the spaces and performing artistic pieces that highlighted the institution's spirit. Their involvement underscored the importance of students in driving UWC's mission.



Student participating during MUN. September, 2023.



Scan to learn more
about "United
for Education"
united.uwccostarica.org



United for Education

Climate change affects many ecosystems globally. The responses needed to evaluate these issues reflect a multidisciplinary approach and the need for integrated strategies to address problems quickly. Individuals, organizations, and governments are taking proactive steps toward sustainable practices. However, the lack of leadership for sustainability is still frequent and requires more accountability, collaboration to guide efforts, and education about harmful political, economic, and social impacts.

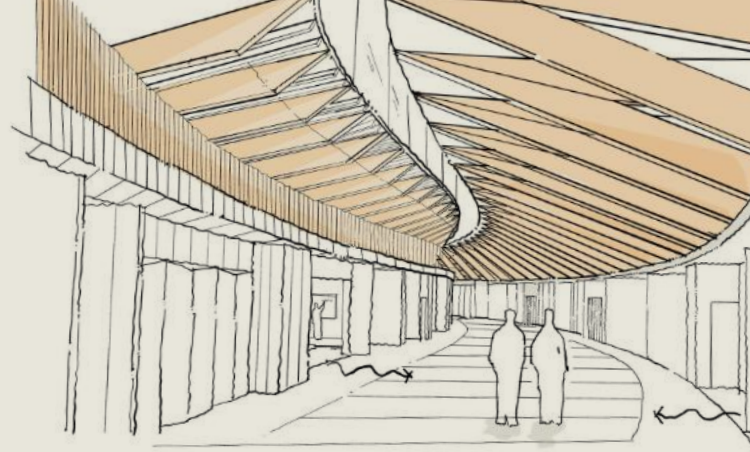
UWC Costa Rica transforms students into globally-conscious leaders through a unique two-year residential experience. Immersed in a multicultural community, students grapple with diverse viewpoints and tackle pressing social and environmental issues. The program's rigorous academics, combined with experiential learning, equips graduates with the skills and passion to make a lasting impact. Boasting a strong alum network of nearly 1,500 individuals from 131 countries, UWC Costa Rica empowers graduates to pursue careers focused on critical issues like climate change and social inclusion.

Fostering international-minded leaders for a sustainable future by making the UWC's innovative educational model more accessible to all.

United, we can promote lifelong learning opportunities, collaboration, and support for outstanding leaders committed to addressing long-term contributions to sustainability. With this pledge, you will encourage qualified students to foster personal growth, leadership skills, and a holistic approach toward sustainability by sponsoring the UWC Costa Rica Scholarship Endowment fund.

- **Grow the scholarship programs 40% to support students' tuition.**
- **Ensure 15% of the student population comes from Costa Rica.**
- **Engage with the UWC Global Alum Network to foster a dynamic exchange of ideas and innovative solutions for the future.**
- **Annually, bring together more than 2,000 educators and youngsters for collaboration through innovative educational experiences.**
- **Promote innovative education through partnerships with impactful educational organizations.**

Design & Construction



Construction in Wood

Architecture, Infrastructure & Landscape The main construction material will be certified wood. This will reduce the impact of construction - unlike materials such as concrete and steel that generate a large ecological footprint.

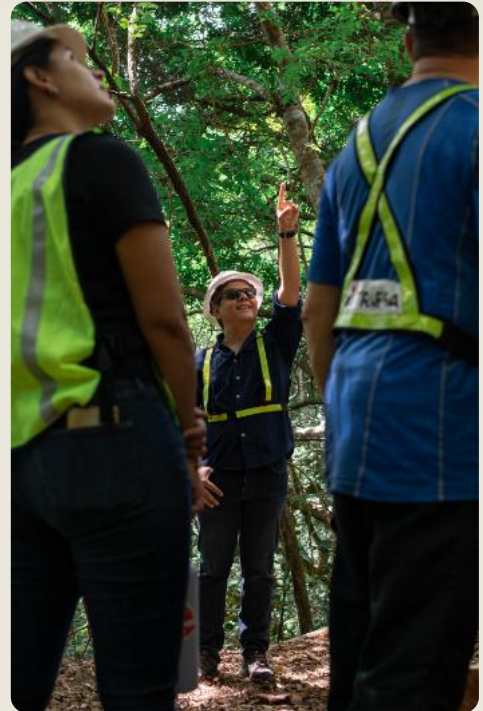
Certified wood harbors carbon (approx. 1 m3 of wood prevents 2 tons of CO2 in the air). This will place us as a model for responsible and sustainable construction by actively collaborating with Costa Rica's Decarbonization Plan for 2050 and the mitigation of the climate crisis.



In 2024

- **Earth Movement & Infrastructure:** Stated on January 15th! Advanced to a 71% by July.
- **Master Plan and Security:** Master plan completed in April, and G4S security consultancy evaluated.
- **Sustainability and Environmental Planning:** trail adaptation & construction while LEED certification consultant engaged in process.

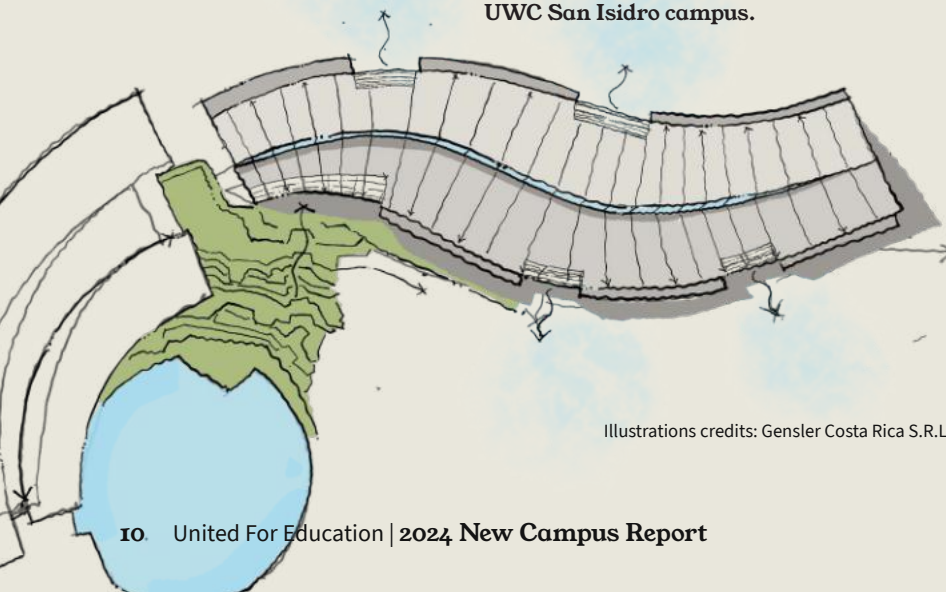
Significant progress in the construction planning and design development of the UWC San Isidro campus.



Certifications



Architecture, Infrastructure & Landscape Under the Sustainability Framework and aligned with the lines of action, this new campus will be built under the standards established by **LEED® Platinum** and **RESET certifications**. The aim is that this campus will be the **first building in the world to have both certifications**. This milestone for the country's construction sector will allow us to promote the RESET standard.



Illustrations credits: Gensler Costa Rica S.R.L.



Scan to learn more about LEED and RESET Certifications

uwccostarica.org/blog

Sustainability & Innovation Center

Nature-Based Education **Alliances & Community Engagement** The Sustainability and Innovation Center will incorporate innovative learning methodologies and sustainable systems. The Center will become a hub of educational innovation and social transformation where leading global partnerships can scale impact, facilitate access to educational experiences, and leverage financial stability for UWC Costa Rica. This space will become an exceptional opportunity to unite with leading global partners to amplify the College's influence as advocates for sustainability, social justice, and peace while securing UWC Costa Rica's financial stability.

The goal: annually, bring together more than 2,000 educators and youth for collaboration through innovative educational experiences.



The new campus and Sustainability and Innovation Center will support Costa Rica, Latin America, and the world in advancing its commitment to:

- Develop conscious global citizens who are empowered and inspired to take action individually and collectively to help address the world's most significant challenges, mainly related to peace and sustainability.
- Co-create education for all people to advocate for peace, sustainability, and international understanding to promote innovative solutions and community engagement opportunities.
- Build a cutting-edge and innovative infrastructure to set a precedent and be a reference for sustainable construction that, at its core, supports the reciprocity of energy efficiency practices and nature conservation also embedded in each educational component of the campus.
- Become a living laboratory whereby the community is immerse in restoring and protecting 96 acres (39 hectares) for conservation and educational purposes; models that are scalable and replicated elsewhere.

A Global Impact Academy that will attract alums worldwide, fostering a dynamic exchange of ideas and innovative solutions for the future and realizing the UWC mission.

Students participating at the Independence Day Parade in San Isidro, Heredia. September, 2024.



Scan to learn more about "United in Peace"
united.uwccostarica.org



UWC COSTA RICA

¡Gracias por recibirnos como
**futuros vecinos
de San Isidro!**

F Colegio del Mun

Costa R

CIS WE ARE AN ACCREDITED SCHOOL | IB | UWCC



United in Peace

Urban sprawl, characterized by unplanned growth and a lack of public spaces, isolates communities and harms the environment. In contrast, UWC Costa Rica fosters vibrant communities by prioritizing inclusivity and connection. Through service projects exceeding 50,000 hours annually, students directly address the needs of minority groups, reconnect with nature, and gain valuable real-world experience. This engagement fosters cultural awareness, tolerance, and practical skills that prepare them for future careers and empower them as agents of change.

By 2025, UWC Costa Rica's New Campus will promote and sustain collective actions in collaboration with the community of San Isidro by developing within the campus open areas in which people from the community can express and exercise their collective rights, such as promotion of culture, recreational activities, economic development, and social interactions—Learning from each other.

In keeping with the College's commitment to sustainability, all spaces will be intentionally designed to respect the diversity of life and its ecosystem and minimize the impact of what we build.

By creating open spaces to educate and promote inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable communities for all people with social and economic diversity.

United, we can support the creation of exceptional open spaces that will bring together students and adults from more than 75+ different nationalities, cultures, spiritual traditions, and economic backgrounds to create a model for peace and sustainability that can be taken out to the World.

- **A black box theater with a capacity of 350 people.**
- **An indoor multipurpose-covered court.**
- **A public plaza to strengthen the economic activities of entrepreneurs.**
- **5 km of in-forest trails to enhance experiential learning in nature.**
- **A Sustainability & Innovation Center**

Engaging with the San Isidro Community

UWC Costa Rica has become an essential partner with the community of San Isidro—especially Santa Cecilia, the closest neighbors near the future campus. Already, the College has commissioned a social worker to explore how it can help address community needs and be a contributing member of San Isidro. It has hosted six community immersion sessions with community leaders of the county and has development associations with the municipality. San Isidro is a community that profoundly cares about gender equality and social development. This transition and integration period is vital to joining strengths and opportunities for the UWC Costa Rica and San Isidro community. Social outreach programs, education, innovation, recreation, and the arts can further develop.



Alliances & Community Engagement This partnership has been further solidified by the many collaborative programming, including a Community Immersion Program in San Isidro, begun last year, which brought important opportunities for introducing the mission, learning about the community’s priorities and seeking spaces for engagement and collaboration. Continuity to this process has resulted in work with local educational, governmental, and community groups in San Isidro like the Colegio Técnico Profesional (CTP) de San Isidro, Matzú Regenerativo, Geriatric Residence “Nuestra Señora de los Ángeles” and local organic farmers.



Intentional spaces for in-person communication with the community and local government.



New Campus presentation to outgoing municipal government in new campus.



New Campus presentation in Santa Ana campus for incoming municipal government and campus tour with students

Local hires for the land movement phase of pre-construction.



Community Action Week

Nature-Based Education

Alliances & Community Engagement

MATZÚ is an

organization that seeks to foster regenerative communities by working with and for children, youth, and adults through environmental, social, and urban actions. In collaboration with the Residencia Geriátrica Nuestra Señora de los Ángeles, a group of students and staff:

- Painted a mural for the new library and developed trails for the new garden at Residencia Geriátrica Nuestra Señora de los Ángeles



Two consecutive years of participation in the Independence Day Parade, and Children's Day.



Section of UWC Costa Rica New Campus' walking trails. 2024.



Scan to learn more
about "United
with Nature"
united.uwccostarica.org



United with Nature

The urgency of climate change is undeniable. Despite the Paris Agreement and ongoing efforts, global warming is accelerating, with 2023 being the hottest year on record. To combat this crisis and its devastating impacts, immediate and collaborative action is essential. We must all be part of the solution.

By 2025, UWC Costa Rica's New Campus will support the regeneration and conservation of 93 acres (39 hectares) of forest bordering the Braulio Carrillo National Park, the second-largest national park in Costa Rica. The property will be part of the experiential learning experience and contribute to Costa Rica's ground-breaking decarbonization plan by developing transformative ways of thinking and futures. collaborative process involving academia, government institutions, and students to work together for global warming mitigation efforts.

To confront the climate crisis through sustainable construction by advancing the country's ground-breaking decarbonization plan by 2050.

United, we can counter climate change challenges and support the possibility of offsetting the College's carbon footprint.

- **Conserving 93-acre (39 hectares) of the new campus property for conservation purposes.**
- **Offsetting approximately 20,000 tons of CO₂ per year.**

Nature & Biodiversity

“...nature has to take priority, first and foremost –the continuity of wild nature, revealing the many ways in which human communities can nurture, adapt, and prosper together with their wild non-human relatives.”

(UWC Costa Rica Sustainability Framework, p.6)

This new privileged location next to the Braulio Carrillo National Park, highlights the shared responsibility to the active care and preservation of the surrounding ecosystems. As stewards of this precious space through the following areas of focus:

Conservation & Environmental Stewardship

Entails the protection of species and ecological biodiversity, habitat management and regeneration and enhancement of ecosystemic services.

Agalychnis Annae (Blue-sided tree frog) Relocation Project in partnership with Costa Rica Wildlife Foundation (CRWF).

The *Agalychnis annae* is an endemic, threatened species of frog which was found in the lake and surrounding areas of the new campus. When identifying the need to drain and accommodate the lake to a function of rain harvesting, action needed to be taken to assure the frog's wellbeing and protection. The College reached out to the CRWF, under which amphibian specialist, **Juan Abarca** lent his expertise and provided a strategy for the relocation of the frog to an alternative space where it would be protected from the construction of the campus. Through awareness efforts with the construction company, Traesa, workers helped in collecting found frogs and centralizing them in the lake. In parallel, Traesa developed a new pond in a space identified with the expert to be suitable for creating a new habitat for the frog. The new pond was created and the relocation of the frog species centralized in the lake began. Relocation of the frog implicated collection of frog adults, eggs and tadpoles, and physical mobilization to the new pond. This relocation happened on 4 different occasions until no more frogs were found in the lake and had been moved to the new pond. Subsequent monitoring showed adaptation of the frog to the new space through the laying of new eggs, growth of tadpoles and identification of adolescent frogs, showing frogs have reproduced in their new habitat.

Plans to integrate students through continuous research and monitoring alongside CRWF are part of the plans for the next academic year.



Architecture, Infrastructure & Landscape

Alliances & Community Engagement



Credits: Diego Benitez

Environmental Offsetting

To minimize the carbon footprint and compensate for impact towards eventual regeneration (where positive input outweighs negative one, not simply neutralizes it).

We Are How We Consume
Alliances & Community Engagement

“Regeneration plan and Vegetation Enrichment Project”

Elaborated by Forest engineers of the New Campus in communication with landscape architects. Consists of reforestation plan and vegetation enrichment by introducing native plant species to improve the composition, structure, and biodiversity of the new campus.

To be developed between July and October 2024.

Nature-Based Education BioProduction and Education Center

Physical space to be built on the new campus for focusing on soil regeneration, nursery for native tree and plant planting for the campus and eventual orchard for organic production for the cafeteria when operations begin in San Isidro. To be integrated to Environmental Systems and Co-Curricular programming.

To begin construction in second semester of the 2024-2025 academic year.



Biodiversity Research

Nature-Based Education Alliances & Community Engagement

Building and strengthening learning and research spaces and collaborations with other educational institutions to broaden educational reach.

Biomapping

Species inventory, location within the San Isidro property and uploading to international databases.

Bioacoustics

Audio recordings of species in the forest and property of San Isidro.

Camera Trap Video

Footage of local fauna.



Aerial view to the central valley from the New Campus. 2024.



Scan to learn more
about "United
with Costa Rica"
united.uwccostarica.org



United with Costa Rica

Contesting the climate crisis in construction is crucial. Building materials account for half of the yearly solid waste generated worldwide, and built environments generate 75% of annual global greenhouse emissions, with buildings accounting for 37% of this. Additionally, 40-50% of resources extracted from global materials are related to housing, construction, and infrastructure. We must challenge current mainstream perspectives on construction and using materials to achieve a sustainable future.

UWC Costa Rica is committed to sustainability with its forthcoming campus and a Sustainability and Innovation Center development by 2025. This project will prioritize eco-friendly design principles to minimize environmental impact throughout the entire lifecycle of the structures by,

- Using wood as the primary construction element.
- Innovating in water and energy efficiency, and sustainable design.
- Achieving simultaneous LEED & RESET certifications.

Costa Rica is a living laboratory whereby the community is immersed in restoring and protecting 80% of the property for conservation and educational purposes, models that are scalable and replicable elsewhere.

United we will create a one-of-a-kind model of a sustainable campus and Sustainability and Innovation Center that allows people and communities to be part of a life-changing opportunity in an internationally diverse learning environment.

- **The development of cross-discipline educational programs to nurture leadership skills that empower youth and adults.**
- **Amplifying the leadership potential of students, learning from Nature in Costa Rica to respond to current and future issues of the world.**

“We Are United represents a significant milestone for the global UWC movement. Integrating nature-based education into the curriculum at UWC Costa Rica sets a precedent for other UWC colleges worldwide. It demonstrates our commitment to staying at the forefront of educational innovation and ensuring our students have the knowledge and skills to address our planet's complex challenges.”

– Faith Abiodun, Executive Director (launch of We Are United)



Discover ways
to give to
UWC Costa Rica
uwccostarica.org/give

Accreditations & Recognitions



Partners

Management



Certifications



Donors



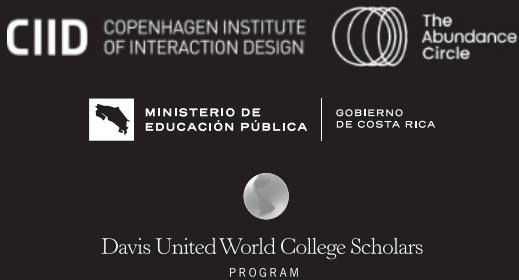
Consultants | Climate & Sustainability



Consultants | Design



Partners



Partnerships & Accreditations



