

## **UC Irvine listed among America's top 10 'Coolest Schools' for sustainability**

### **UC Center for Hydrologic Modeling highlighted for Water for Peace Global Outreach Campaign**

**Irvine, Calif., Aug. 14, 2013** – [Sierra magazine has ranked UC Irvine #3](#) in its seventh annual ranking of the [“Coolest Schools” in America](#). The rankings, which grade and honor sustainability-conscious institutions across the nation, include [UC Irvine](#) among the top 10 “greenest” campuses in the country for the second year in a row.

[Sierra, the Sierra Club's official publication](#), ranked each institution in five categories: Education & Research, Operations, Planning, Administration & Engagement, Innovation and Supplemental. The [UC Center for Hydrologic Modeling](#) (UCCHM) played a major role in helping UC Irvine earn a perfect score in the ‘Innovation’ category.

UCCHM's Water for Peace Global Outreach Campaign was noted as an innovative effort, along with several other energy and sustainability-focused UC Irvine programs and initiatives. The campaign was developed to address the critical need for more effective, sustainable water management practices across regional, national and international geo-political lines. Backed by satellite data provided by NASA's Gravity Recovery and Climate Experiment (GRACE), UCCHM Director Jay Famiglietti and the Center team use this information to pinpoint ‘hotspots of water stress’ on a global scale.

Water diplomacy trips by UCCHM researchers to regions designated as ‘hotspots’ help facilitate data exchanges and scientific collaborations in order to advance the discussion of regional water management issues and solutions.

In February 2013, a delegation of UCCHM representatives and UC Irvine officials traveled to Israel, Palestine and Jordan on a water diplomacy visit, with the goal of using data and scholarly exchange to bring the issues of cooperation and water management to the forefront. Previous trips have included visits to China, Turkey and Tunisia. A water diplomacy trip to East Africa is planned for October 2013.

## PRESS RELEASE



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### **About the UC Center for Hydrologic Modeling:**

The UCCHM is a University of California system-wide research center formed to address California, national and international water issues. Its mission is to develop state-of-the-art models, remote sensing analyses, data products and data management to support research and sustainable water management on both local and global levels. UCCHM findings inform state, regional, national and international leaders, and advise decision-makers at all levels, on the future of water availability. For more information, please visit [www.ucchm.org](http://www.ucchm.org).

### **For additional information about:**

*Sierra* magazine: <http://www.sierraclub.org/sierra/>

University of California, Irvine: <http://www.uci.edu/>

Complete list of 'Coolest Schools': <http://www.sierraclub.org/sierra/201309/coolschools/>

Full description of UC Irvine's ranking:

<http://www.sierraclub.org/sierra/201309/coolschools/pdfs/university-of-california-irvine-ca.pdf>

*UCCHM Press Release #2: UC Irvine listed among America's top 10 'Coolest Schools' for sustainability*