

A photograph of a dense forest of tall redwood trees. The trees are very tall and slender, with thick, reddish-brown bark. The canopy is thick and green, with some sunlight filtering through. A dirt path winds through the forest, and a small black sign is visible on the right side of the path.

# The UC Davis Redwood SEED Scholar Program

Beth Foraker

Vision For The Future Conference – October 2021



# Why Does Inclusive College Matter?

Higher Education is about opportunity:

- More stable relationships
- More civically engaged
- Better paying jobs
- Better health outcomes
- Happier life
- Better life outcomes across every metric

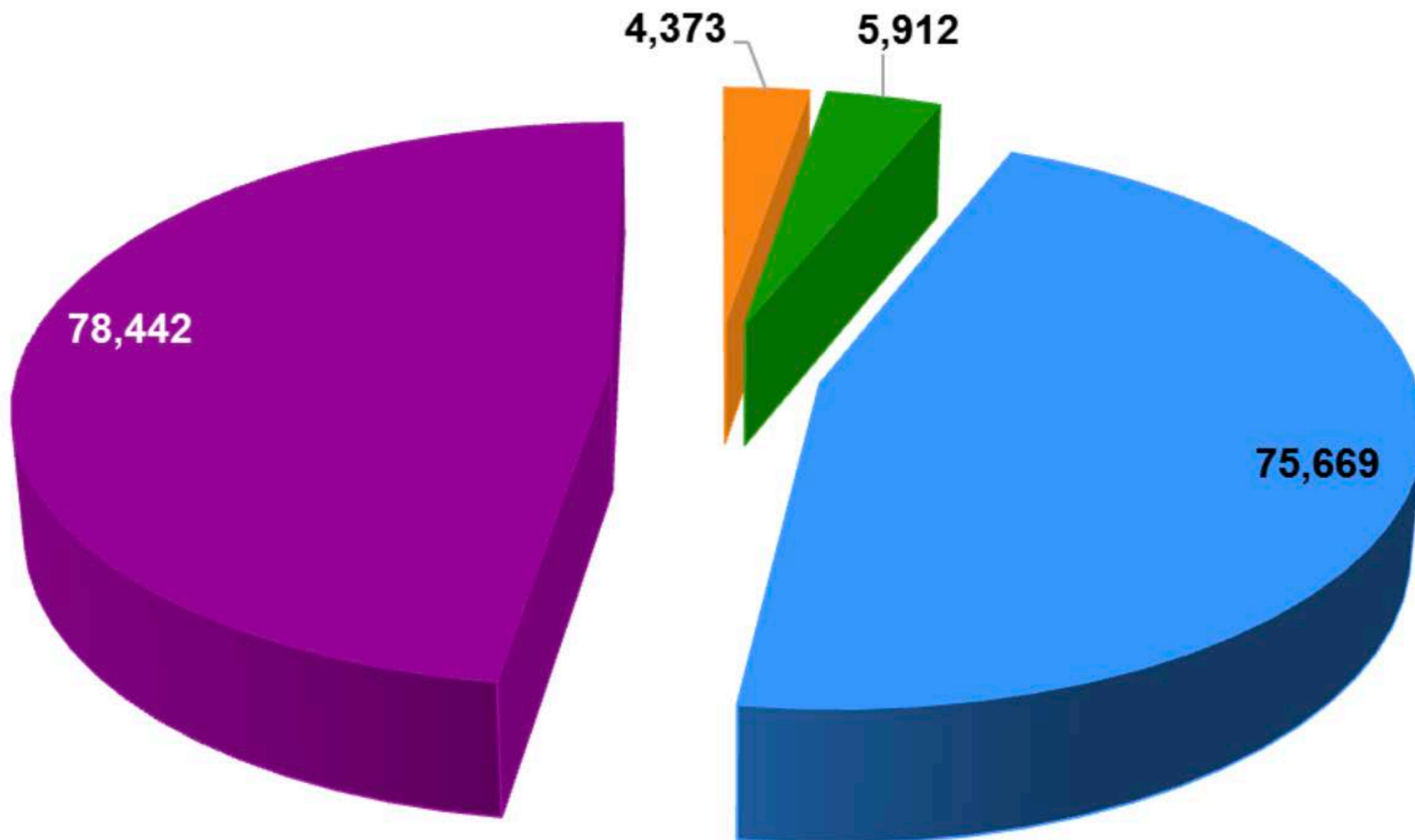
Why would we deny an entire segment of society access to this opportunity?  
This is about FREEDOM.



What percent of adults with intellectual disabilities  
in California currently make a living wage?



- Competitive Integrated Employment \$9.50/hr.
- Supported Employment Programs Group
- WAP, Day & Look Alike Sub Minimum Wage \$?/hr.
- Other Consumers \$?/hr.



Our outcomes are catastrophic.

Source: [https://scdd.ca.gov/average\\_hourly\\_wage/](https://scdd.ca.gov/average_hourly_wage/)



**Time for a guess:**

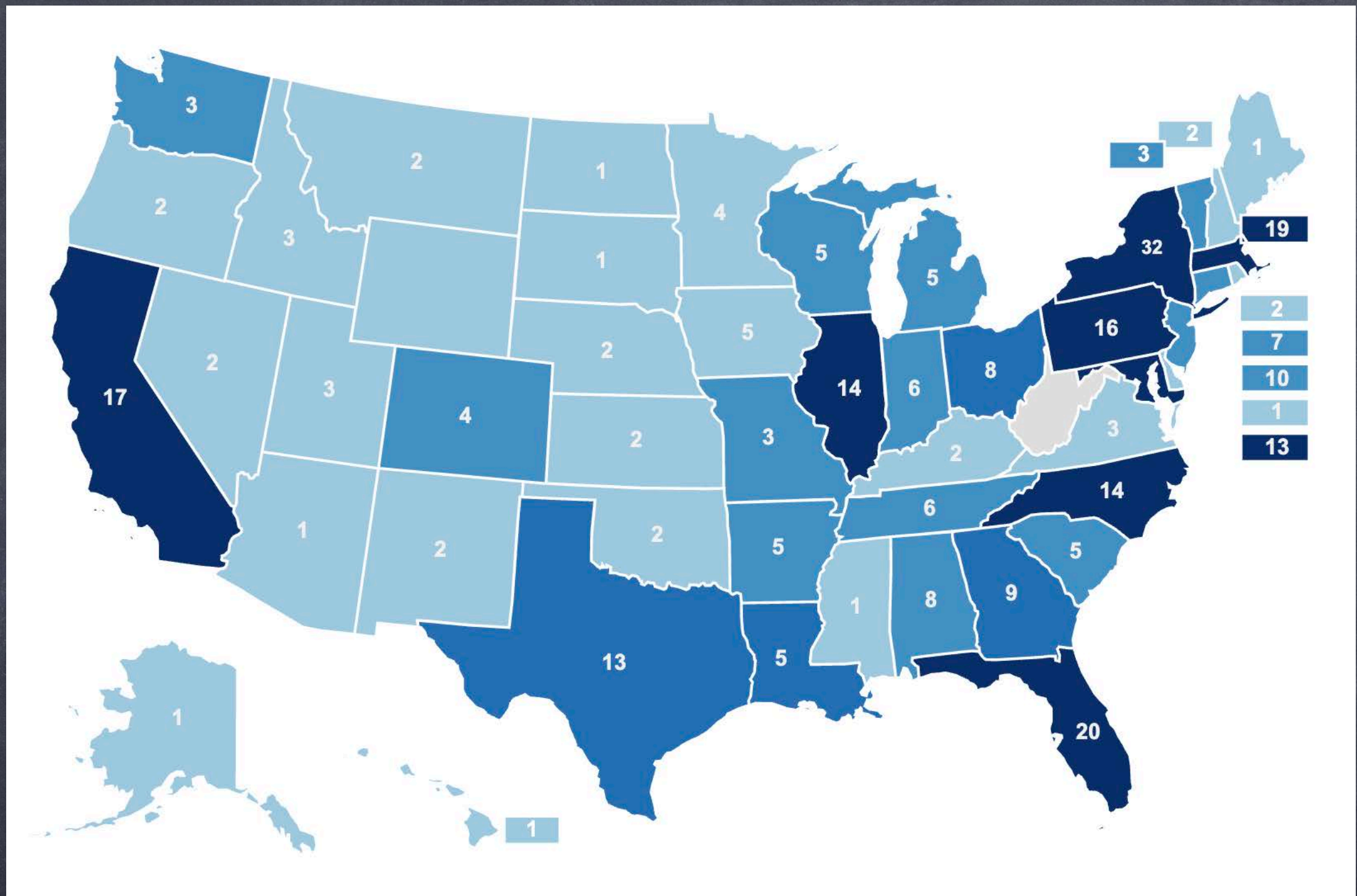
How many California young adults 18–26  
are waiting for this opportunity??





- In 2010, the Federal government gave the first TPSID (Transition and Post-secondary Programs for Students with Intellectual Disabilities) grants to develop inclusive post-secondary programs at universities and colleges around the country. Also created Think College: [www.thinkcollege.net](http://www.thinkcollege.net)
- In 2015, 25 more TPSID grants were awarded. 0 in CA.
- In 2020, 22 more TPSID grants were awarded. 3 in CA
- Currently, there are over 250 college programs for students with intellectual disabilities! (Very few offer inclusive living.)





If you look at the map, it says that there are 17 inclusive post-secondary options in California...but that includes mostly community college options.

There are only 2 that offer housing

None that offer a four year program.

West Virginia still has NONE.



# What's Possible!

These 16 schools offer 4 year inclusive  
post-secondary programs with living options!



UNIVERSITY OF  
**NORTHERN**  
**COLORADO**

 **Elmhurst College**

**Georgia  
Tech**



**UNF**

On Campus Transition Program

**TCNJ** THE COLLEGE OF  
NEW JERSEY



COASTAL CAROLINA  
UNIVERSITY

Millersville University

**CLEMSON**  
College of EDUCATION

SOUTHEASTERN  
UNIVERSITY

 **GEORGE  
MASON**  
UNIVERSITY

 **KENT STATE**  
UNIVERSITY

  
University of  
**CINCINNATI**



**COLLEGE of  
CHARLESTON**



# UC Davis Health MIND Institute + UC Davis Office of Diversity Equity and Inclusion = UC Davis Redwood SEED Scholars Program!



**The Redwood SEED Scholars Program (Supported Education to Elevate Diversity) at the University of California, Davis is designed for students with intellectual disabilities.**

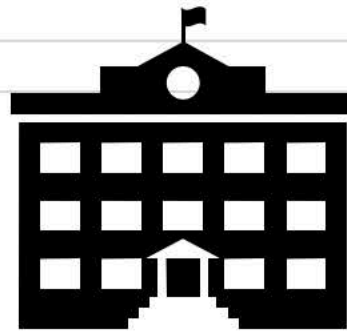
They will be welcomed to UC Davis as full-time students, and supported with peer mentors in academics as well as in health and wellness. Redwood Seed Scholars will take part in internships both on and off campus with the goal of competitive, integrated employment. They will live alongside other UC Davis students in on-campus housing and participate in extra-curricular clubs and organizations. Self-determination and choice will be the seeds we plant at the beginning.

**What are the goals of the UC Davis Redwood SEED Scholars Program?**

- Personal Growth
- Interconnectedness
- Reaching and stretching toward independence
- Hard work
- Developing skills within context
- Learning to live in a community
- Working toward employment
- Leaning into areas of interest and study

**UC Davis was awarded  
\$2.1 million US Dept of  
Education TPSID Grant in  
October 2020!**





**Exploration** - Students take courses with typical peers in their area of interest. Coursework is modified and adapted as needed.

**Education** - Students receive targeted instruction in literacy and math and specialized courses. Technology skills and communication skills are supported with mentors.

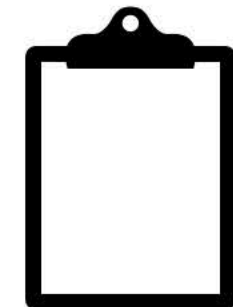
**Independent Living** - Students live in on-campus housing with typical peers with support. Living skills like grocery shopping, laundry, meal planning, personal hygiene are taught in context.



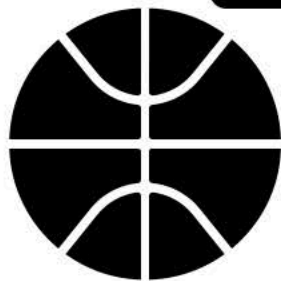
**Health and Wellness** - students receive nutrition and exercise mentors.

**UC Davis S.E.E.D.  
(Supported Education to Elevate Diversity)  
Scholar**

**Nothing About Us Without Us**  
Person Centered Plan Focused  
on Self-Determination



**Employment** - Students have internships based on student interest during each quarter. Embedded in the internship are supported job skills, navigating mass transit and transportation, planning for work and communication skills. Leadership skills and advocacy skills will be intentionally developed.



**Leisure Skills/Community** - Students are supported and provided with social mentors to facilitate participation in on-campus clubs, activities and special events.





## What's great about our program?

- It is a collaboration between UC Davis Diversity, Equity and Inclusion AND UC Davis Health MIND Institute!!
- It is a four year program...first of its kind in both CA and the west!
- It is a cohort model – the dream: more friendship opportunities
- The residential piece gives students who are typically very socially isolated a chance to learn important social skills in context with peers...a chance to develop skills to live independently...a chance to make decisions as a young adult



# What Does Inclusive College Look Like??





It looks like the first football game...and finding some Aggie gear.





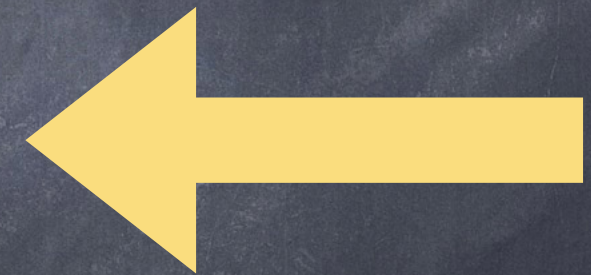
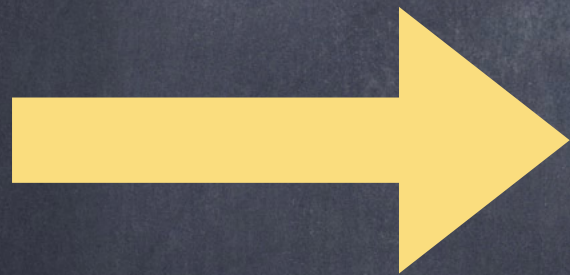


It's learning to problem-solve so that you won't be late to class...choosing to get your lunch to go and eating it in front of the building of your afternoon class so you will be on time.



# There Were Only THREE Cities in the Nation that Offer Inclusion Preschool–Four Year College...

*\*Continuums of Inclusion\**



*\*NOW, there is one city in California that offers a PreK–Four Year College Continuum of Inclusion.\**

**The City of Davis!!**



Want to connect?

Reach out to

Beth Foraker

[ebforaker@ucdavis.edu](mailto:ebforaker@ucdavis.edu)

Or go to our website:

<https://redwoodseed.ucdavis.edu>