

Interview with UCI Police Dept. Chief of Police Jorge Cisneros



Jorge Cisneros
Chief of Police, UC Irvine Police

Why did you choose law enforcement as a career?

When the Chief Jorge Cisneros was in college he attended Cal Poly San Luis Obispo and received his degree in architecture. While he was in school he had a job for the local police department where he would drive students from campus back to their homes/dorms when it got late, very similar to our UC Irvine Campus Safety Officer's. At the time he thought it was the perfect job while in college because he could study between calls and it was not too demanding on a student. While he had this job he got to meet a lot of the officers in the police department and loved providing this service to the people in their community. After Chief Cisneros graduated he started the reserve program in Long Beach while still working as architecture. He said it was an extremely hard decision to switch careers from architecture to law enforcement but he had such a passion for providing a service to the community that he made the switch and has loved every minute of it.

How long have you worked in law enforcement and how long have you worked for UCI specifically?

Chief Cisneros has been in law enforcement for 25 years and recently started here at UC Irvine about 2 months ago! He is very excited to work on our campus and to be able to see the change in population, along with the change in how the

community grows each year. To Chief Cisneros, one of the best parts of working on a college campus is being able to see the students grow and overcome different obstacles, in hopes to be their coach and mentor.

What is your favorite sports team?

Looking around Chief Cisneros office it is clear to see that he is a true Steeler's fan. According to him, "Real men wear black." He says he is a Steeler's fan because they play the basics. They know how to work off the run so that they can play a passing game. And to top it all off, they are a defensive machine. Along with the Steeler's he is also a fan of the Dodger's, Laker's and the Penguin's.

What is your favorite food?

This question was not an easy one for the Chief to answer. He told us that he loved food in general and picking just one type of food was nearly impossible. He did say that he likes a variety such as fish, steak, pizza, salad, and sushi. Although he likes most food he did tell us that he does not believe pasta is a meal unless it has some kind of meat in it!

Where do you want to travel to next?

The place the Chief wants to travel to most would be Israel and the Middle East. He wants to be able to see the history of these areas and take in the culture. He also wants to be able to learn about the conflict their and hear both sides of the story without any media bias getting in the way. We asked Chief Cisneros where he has already traveled that he would like to visit again and without hesitation he said Machu Picchu in Peru!

What is your favorite hobby?

Chief Cisneros told us his favorite hobby is golf and that he has been playing as much as he can for the past 10 years. We wanted to know more about why golf was what he enjoyed to do so we asked him how he got interested in that sport. He told us that he used to be a big soccer player and that he played all the time. As time went on it would take him multiple days to recover from one game so his wife finally told him he needed a new sport. That's when he decided to pick up golf and has fallen in love with it. He has played all across America and a lot on the East Coast at courses like Pebble Beach.

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What is your most memorable moment as an Officer?

When we asked Chief Cisneros this question we could see that he was very excited to answer it and his story did not disappoint. One of the many positions Chief Cisneros has held was in the Homicide Unit for the Long Beach Police Department. One of their jobs was to investigate kidnappings and try to find the victim who was kidnapped. In 1997 his unit was called to investigate a kidnapping. In this case the family had hired a Coyote for \$3,000 to bring their daughter across the border to them. When the girl was across the border the Coyote told them he needed another \$3,000 for them to have her back. The family at this point had no more money and called the police for help. 36 hours later they found the girl in a small municipality. Chief Cisneros returned the girl and though the case was closed. About 6 months later the family called him and said the daughter was not doing very well and was having a hard time adjusting and giving her parents attitude. They asked if Chief Cisneros could come and talk to her and see if he could talk some sense into her. Cisneros did go talk to the girl but felt like she was just brushing him off and did not know if he really got through to her. Fast forward to 2015 Chief Cisneros received an email through LinkedIn from a girl who happened to be the girl he rescued. She thanked him for everything he had done and for coming and talking to her. Because of the kindness the Chief showed to her and her family she was inspired to go into law enforcement and wanted him to know it was because of him.

What is your advice for students at UCI?

He wants students to know that college is not just about always studying. It is about exposing yourself to everything the campus has to offer and being open to trying new things and meeting new people. Chief Cisneros wants to encourage every student to

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go out and try to find a new perspective on something. His recommendation is to get involved in at least one extracurricular activity outside of your major and at least one extracurricular activity inside your major. This will help you to learn about all the resources on campus and will help you to meet new people and experience things you may have never thought of before.

Do you have any secret talents?

He does not consider it a secret talent but the talent that Chief Cisneros shared with us was that he can draw. Being an Architect he had to draw up a lot of plans and became rather skilled in the craft. He has designed and drawn up plans for the Orange County Performing Arts Center and Rancho Santa Margarita High School.

What is one thing you want the campus to know about why you come to work every day?

The only way Chief Cisneros could describe this is that he loves what he does. He loves being able to work with people and being able to coach and mentor them. He loves that his job allows him to collaborate with students, other officers and the campus. He says he has this feeling inside that makes him happy to go to work every day and plans on doing this until he no longer feels like that anymore.

