

Interview with UCI Police Dept. **Police Officer Benny Green**



Benny Green, UC Irvine Police

Why did you choose law enforcement as a career?

Officer B. Green chose a career in law enforcement to change the public's perception of law enforcement by helping to systematically remove any corruption that exists. While growing up in Watts and Compton he experienced a plethora of negative encounters with police officers. Officer Green's experiences provided him with first hand knowledge as to what some citizen's ideology pertaining to law enforcement are. Due to being able to relate to those sentiments and also working within the law enforcement community he can help to dispel various perceived notions on both sides of the equation. Officer Green believes there are many incredible individuals that don the uniform everyday and he wants the citizens at larger to know. Therefore, he believes it is incumbent for him to help foster better law enforcement and citizenry relationships whenever possible.

He began his career as a high school teacher, but changed his career path towards law enforcement and joined the LAPD. After a short stint with the department he left and worked with incarcerated male youths. While working with the probation department he learned about UCIPD. Officer Green wants to do his part to change the system, since he grew up with a negative attitude towards law enforcement. Office Green understands that law enforcement has a great deal of power and authority, and relishes protecting the community without abusing the power which has been entrusted to him.

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

Office Green has a total of 15 plus years in law enforcement and has been a part of the UC Irvine Police Department for the past 11 & ½ years.

What is your favorite food?

Office Green's favorite meal is lobster.

Where do you want to travel to next?

Officer Green would like to take his family on an African Safari someday.

What is your favorite hobby?

Officer Green's favorite hobby is fishing. He dreams to one day just spend all of his free time fishing with his family while retired in the state of Washington.

What is your most memorable moment as an Officer?

Officer Green experienced two encounters which serve as his most memorable moments as a police officer. During last year's graduation a participant's father was having a heart attack. He and a co-worker were first responders and were able to save the individuals life earning both The University of California Police Department Life Saving Award. Also, he has been responsible for saving multiple lives by talking individuals down off ledges. His overall best moments are when he is able to stop individuals from committing suicide by truly being there for them and connecting with them on a genuine level. He understand the value of life and the potential path of success students are heading towards.

What is your advice for students at UCI?

His advice for UC Irvine students is simple, major in something you love! He believes that you should not settle for something that others are doing or something that sounds "cool". He encourages the students to research the major and careers they are interested in and apply for internships to really get a feel of that career path.

The over arching theme is simple, what makes you happy and what career or job would you happily go to each and every day? He said it over and over again, "do something that you love and are willing to do for free". Officer Green mention that if you have the time and energy try to double major, to truly get the full college learning experience. Don't regret not doing something you wish you had done!

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

Due to Officer Green's teaching background he truly believes in higher education and the youth of today will be responsible for the future. Therefore, Officer Green, wants to make sure that all students and faculty have a safe environment to live, study and thrive. Officer Green takes great pleasure and pride to be able to serve this community. He understand that in order for the students to succeed they will need to feel safe. By doing his part he knows he is able to provide safety for the students and become one of the reasons UC Irvine students are able to reach their full potential.