During 2004-05, Campaign UCLA received more than $287 million in private gifts, grants and pledges, the third highest total of the 10-year Campaign. Outright gifts and pledge payments totaled $281.6 million. This marks the sixth year of the Campaign in which UCLA's gift total has surpassed $250 million.

This figure, which reflects gifts and pledges received between July 1, 2004, and June 30, 2005, propelled the total for the Campaign to more than $2.85 billion, exceeding the recent $2.4 billion goal by nearly 19 percent in advance of the Campaign's conclusion on December 31, 2005.

Concurrent with this historic achievement in university fund-raising, UCLA's Ensuring Academic Excellence initiative generated $54 million during 2004-05, bringing the initiative's total to nearly $91 million. This fund-raising drive, launched in June 2004, is designed to generate $250 million in private commitments through 2009, specifically to help attract and retain top students and faculty, a campuswide priority.

Included in the 2004-05 total were gifts to create five new endowed faculty chairs in the UCLA College and 10 new endowed chairs in the professional schools. Among these commitments was a gift of $2 million from the Mattel Children's Foundation to establish the Mattel Executive Chair in Pediatrics in the David Geffen School of Medicine.

Additionally, the Division of Humanities received $5 million from renowned anthropologist A. Richard Diebold Jr. to endow graduate student fellowships. According to Patricia O'Brien, executive dean of the UCLA College, "Professor Diebold has been visionary and thoughtful in providing the College with the flexibility to create fellowships wherever they are most needed in the humanities, thereby inspiring the work of our most promising graduate students and enhancing our competitive edge."

Graduate student fellowship support also included $1.2 million in bequests from the estate of Louise T. Lucio to the Graduate School of Education & Information Studies.

Campaign resources continue to secure UCLA's position as a leader in American higher education by supporting pioneering research, providing student and faculty support, enhancing interdisciplinary programs and enabling capital improvements.