“We’re not surprised at the results of this study,” said Andrew J. Policano, dean of UC Irvine’s Paul Merage School of Business. “Employers have long recognized the growth and leadership potential of our students and the significant value they bring to their businesses.”

This spring, the Merage School’s Fully Employed MBA program has received its highest number of applicants ever, up 10% over last year. This program, which is designed for working mid-career professionals, also registered an incoming class with the highest average salary ever.

“We’ve seen an increase in almost every category we benchmark,” said Tony Hansford, assistant dean of the Merage School’s Fully Employed MBA program. “We’re up 36 percent in full time program applications, GMAT scores, salary, career level of incoming students, and number of students entering who already possess a graduate degree of some kind. It’s a direct correlation to the value employers place on our program and the leadership skills we instill in our students.”

The Merage School offers four dynamic MBA programs – plus PhD and undergraduate business degrees – that deliver its thematic approach to business education: sustainable growth through strategic innovation. The School graduates leaders with the exceptional ability to help grow their organizations through analytical decision-making, strategic innovation and collaborative execution. In-class and on-site experiences with real-world business problems give students the edge needed to help companies compete even in today’s challenging global economy.

Augmenting the Merage School’s MBA programs are six Centers of Excellence and an Executive Education program, which provide numerous and varied opportunities for students and the business community at large to enhance their education experience and update their professional expertise. While the Merage School is relatively young, it has quickly grown to consistently rank among the top 10% of all AACSB-accredited programs through exceptional student recruitment, world-class faculty, a strong alumni network and close individual and corporate relationships.

Take a look at some of our alumni and hear their stories at merage.uci.edu/FullTimeMBA/The-Students.