Increasingly, innovation-oriented enterprises are working to improve the diversity of their teams – it's not only the right thing to do, it makes for better business. Employee teams featuring a wide range of backgrounds enjoy greater flexibility and depth in considering solutions that engage a variety of users.

Engagement, support, and recognition of diverse communities are key components of UC San Diego's strategic plan. By developing confident graduates who embrace their differences as strengths, UC San Diego expands the pipeline of talented, agile employees from underrepresented backgrounds.

Key among these efforts is our outreach to LGBT community-supporting students. Acceptance and inclusion of the LGBT community has improved rapidly in recent years, yet its students still stand to benefit tremendously from active expressions of validation and support.

The Center for Networked Systems, a computer science research center at UC San Diego, aspires to affirm the importance of future LGBT engineers by establishing the **Alan Turing Memorial Scholarship**, homage to a titan in the field whose contributions were tragically cut short.

ALAN TURING MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

The Alan Turing Memorial Scholarship is envisioned to be established in 2015 by the Center for Networked Systems through philanthropic partnership. A founder of the field of computer science and a brilliant mathematician, Alan Turing's work contributed substantially to the Allied victory in World War II through his brilliant codebreaking. After the war, Turing suffered outright persecution for his activities as a gay man. He died by suicide in 1954.

As planned, the Center for Networked Systems will award the Alan Turing Memorial Scholarship to enrolled UC San Diego undergraduate students majoring in computer science or computer engineering who have demonstrated their academic merit and who are also active in supporting the LGBT community. Preference will be given to students with demonstrated financial need. The award will be made for one year for up to $10,000.

IMPACT

Establishment of the Alan Turing Memorial Scholarship will highlight the Center for Networked Systems' interest in celebrating students from all backgrounds and orientations, and emphasize our alignment with philanthropic partners who share these important goals. Awarded scholars will benefit from this recognition of their achievements and conclude their studies boosted by this prestigious commendation.

Perhaps most importantly, the creation of the Alan Turing Memorial Scholarship is a decisive step in reframing a legacy so unjustly limited by a culture not yet ready to embrace the wealth of perspective and experience difference can bring.