To help train the next generation of STEM teachers, Nancy ('74, Cred '75) and Tom Patten ('74, MS '76) have pledged $100,000 to establish the **Next Generation STEM Teaching Award**, a matching fund to support student scholarships in the UC Davis School of Education.

Every gift to the Next Generation STEM Teaching Award is matched dollar for dollar by the Pattens' match, with a goal of raising an additional $100,000 in gifts.

“We invite UC Davis alumni and other supporters to join us in making an investment in the future,” said Nancy Patten. “We are most excited about this opportunity to double the impact of our gift and to inspire others to support our effort.”

The fund will support scholarships for School of Education teaching credential students who have the interest, passion, and aptitude to teach STEM-related subjects in K-12 public schools.

In California, the demand for professionals in STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) fields will grow nearly 20 percent by 2018. Yet too few graduates are prepared to enter STEM fields.

The Pattens believe that enthusiastic and well-prepared teachers are the key to unlocking the state's potential for innovation and prosperity through STEM.

“No one has more power than a classroom teacher to reach and excite children about learning,” said Nancy, who discovered her love of teaching after helping another student in high school.

By preparing UC Davis educators to inspire the next generation of students to pursue STEM majors and careers, the School of Education strengthens California’s and the nation’s ability to tap the true potential of its future engineers, scientists and mathematicians.

“Great teachers make all the difference,” said Tom, who studied engineering at UC Davis.