

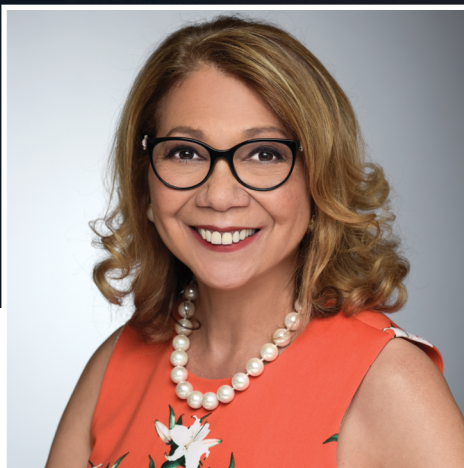


CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY
FULLERTON

60
YEARS

TITAN REPORT

DECEMBER 2017 | news.fullerton.edu



President García to Leave Remarkable Legacy

Cal State Fullerton President Mildred García will be leaving the University she has led for almost six years to assume the presidency of the American Association of State Colleges and Universities (AASCU), effective Jan. 22, 2018.

Since her arrival on campus in 2012, García has achieved an impressive track record of achievements — all focused on student success and broadening and enhancing already excellent academic programs.

She leaves as the University completes the final year of its first ever five-year strategic plan — a plan that she championed. Under García's leadership, the university has seen a 30 percent improvement in six-year graduation rates and a 65 percent improvement in four-year graduation rates for first-time freshmen — both university records; the achievement gap was eliminated for transfer students and cut it in half for first-time freshmen; and annual philanthropic gift commitments nearly tripled — from \$8.5 million to \$22 million. The institution is No. 1 in California and second in the nation in awarding bachelor's degrees to Hispanics, as well as fifth in the nation in graduating students of color.

But what these achievements truly represent is the success of tens of thousands of graduates, many the first in their families to attend college, to pursue a path of upward mobility — a path that will affect the lives of generations to come.

WHEN STARS COLLIDE: CSUF RESEARCHERS CONTRIBUTE TO SPACE DISCOVERY

The Gravitational-Wave Physics and Astronomy Center at Cal State Fullerton celebrated another first-of-its-kind, out-of-this-world discovery, this one occurring 130 million light-years away from Earth. One year after being recognized for assisting astronomy researchers at Caltech's Laser Interferometer Gravitational-Wave Observatory (LIGO) in the discovery of gravitational waves, CSUF Fullerton is celebrating its contribution in the first-ever recorded signal of a neutron star collision.

For Cal State Fullerton astrophysicist Jocelyn Read, the unprecedented discovery of gravitational waves produced from the collision of two neutron stars has forever changed the world of physics and astronomy.

"There is a gold mine of science to come," Read told audience members at a campus public lecture Oct. 16, the same day CSUF and other scientists across the globe made the groundbreaking announcement of the spectacular cosmic event.

Read, assistant professor of physics, and Joshua Smith, associate professor of physics and Dan Black Director of Gravitational-Wave Physics and Astronomy, whose research efforts contributed to the detection, discussed the latest scientific finding in gravitational-wave astronomy. The pair gave a glimpse into the science behind the first-ever detection and how the two identical LIGO detectors in the U.S., and a third detector in Italy, made the history-making observation of the binary neutron star merger.



SLOW AND STEADY DRIVES THE ECONOMIC RECOVERY

Momentum gained this year in an economic recovery that's pushing nearly a decade isn't likely to stop soon, but it will slow in Orange County, according to Cal State Fullerton economists Anil Puri and Mira Farka in their Oct. 25 Economic Outlook and Forecast presentation to nearly 700 business leaders.

Despite anticipation following the presidential election, not much has changed in terms of the legislative agenda, and the Affordable Care Act remains intact despite repeated attempts in Congress to repeal and replace it, the economic report states. In Orange County, unlike the national economy, weakness seeped into the real economy: the pace of job formation shifted this year and layoffs ramped up — a trend also evident in neighboring Los Angeles County and the Inland Empire and the broader Southern California region.

Farka and Puri led the two-hour presentation at Hotel Irvine. Farka is co-director of the Woods Center and previously worked on Wall Street as an economist with Deutsche Bank. Puri is interim provost and vice president for academic affairs and director of the Woods Center for Economic Analysis and Forecasting,



FLYING PUMPKINS DEMONSTRATE ENGINEERING AND MATH SKILLS

More than 4,000 spectators were on hand as 16 teams participated in the CSUF College of Engineering and Computer Science and Discovery Cube's annual Pumpkin Launch in early November. The goal? To fling the most massive pumpkins to targets 100 to 300 feet away, being as accurate as possible in hitting the target. (Teams are judged on accuracy and distance.)

The event also features hands-on STEM (science, technology, engineering, mathematics) activities for children, presented by CSUF engineering students and the science center.

For engineering students, this was a chance to showcase and demonstrate their knowledge of engineering principles. Students applied different engineering concepts learned in the classroom — from calculus to kinematics — to a real-world application. From designing and planning the blueprints, to staying within a budget and working as a team, this project gives teams the chance to learn valuable skills."



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Did You Know?

In honor of Cal State Fullerton's 60th Anniversary, we are sharing some of the campus highlights over the past six decades.

Titans Reach Higher in the World Series

In CSUF's 60 years, 73 Titans have gone on to play major league baseball. Among them are Justin Turner who finished his tenth season (and fourth season with the Dodgers) and Mike Lamb who was drafted in 1997 by the Texas Rangers and later traded to the Houston Astros in 2004.

Turner's home run against the Astros in the 2017 World Series marked only the second time any Titan had recorded a homer in the World Series. The first homer was Lamb's in the 2005 World Series. Both Turner and Lamb won championships with CSUF: Turner in 2004, Lamb in 1995.

More history was made in the eighth inning of the 2017 World Series when Titan Chris Devenski, an Astro, made his World Series debut, striking out two — including Turner. It was the first time two Titans have ever faced each other in the World Series and the first time two Titans have played in the same World Series game.