It Takes a Titan to Raise $37 Million...During a Pandemic

Just before the COVID-19 pandemic necessitated a virtual lockdown of Orange County, Cal State Fullerton launched its first comprehensive fundraising campaign to raise $200 million in philanthropic support over seven years. Yet even in the midst of a worldwide pandemic, the university achieved a record-breaking year, bringing in $37,027,576 to close the fiscal year.

“When the pandemic first hit, things were so uncertain and confusing,” said Greg Saks, vice president for university advancement. “And yet, we never lost faith in our ability to work closely with our supporters and friends. Our battle cry of ‘It Takes a Titan’ truly epitomizes the work of this university.”

In addition to raising more than $37 million, virtually every goal that was set was not only achieved but exceeded. These successes range from meeting every donor goal, to great success with our senior class gift, to celebrating the single largest gift in university history.

“When we began planning the comprehensive campaign, nobody envisioned that mere months after the formal launch, classes would be held online and the vast majority of faculty and staff would be working from home,” Saks said. “But to their credit, the campus and donor community realized that their support during this time of crisis was more important than ever … and they delivered in spectacular fashion. We are so grateful for their continued support.”

Physical Campus Master Plan, Student Housing Project Approved by CSU Board of Trustees

The CSUF physical campus master plan was approved, by unanimous vote, by the CSU Board of Trustees on July 21. This was followed an hour later, by a second unanimous vote, to approve the university’s student housing phase 4 plans. The following day, a third unanimous vote carried the motion to approve the renaming of Nicholas and Lee Begovich Center for Gravitational-Wave Physics and Astronomy in recognition of the Begovich’s philanthropy and interest in the center.

President Fram Virjee introduced the physical campus master plan by explaining that this was a culmination of years of effort, involving significant public input across the campus community that brought thousands of Titans and members of the Orange County community to the table.

The campus master plan serves as the physical blueprint for CSUF’s current and future leadership to support the university’s strategic plan. The approval of the proposed fourth phase of the CSU Fullerton Student Housing project will enable the university to construct a new housing community project opening in fall 2022.

To learn more about the campus physical master plan, visit masterplan.fullerton.edu.

Opening Schools Safely Amid COVID-19

As school officials debate how to safely reopen schools amidst the COVID-19 pandemic, a new report surveying 1,275 school social workers across the country offers insights and recommendations.


Ongoing Updates on Titans Return: COVID-19 Recovery

For the latest updates about Cal State Fullerton’s COVID-19 response and the framework for campus openings, visit coronavirus.fullerton.edu.

bit.ly/csuf-fundraising-campaign
Students Help 102-Year-Old Veteran Use Zoom for the First Time

GERONTOLOGY CLASS BRINGS STUDENTS AND SENIORS TOGETHER WHILE APART

“This is pretty neat!” said Jim*, a 102-year-old World War II veteran, on his first-ever Zoom video call.

The online chat was facilitated by Cal State Fullerton students working with a nonprofit organization called Project L.I.F.E. (Living in Faith Everyday).

Before the COVID-19 pandemic, students in “Introduction to Gerontology” had been meeting in person with senior citizens one hour a week for 10 weeks as part of a service-learning program designed to strengthen intergenerational understanding and relieve loneliness between both age groups. More than 100 students have participated in the program to date.

BIT.LY/CSUF-VETERAN-COVID19

Dean Establishes First Amendment Fund

College of Communications Dean Bey-Ling Sha recently established the First Amendment Fund to support College of Communications activities related to the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution and its protection of the freedoms of religion, speech, press, assembly, and petition. The fund will allow students and faculty to engage in activities, events and research related to the First Amendment, including student-run media, debate and forensics, civil dialogue circles, and other projects benefiting the college, the campus, and the community.

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN SUPPORTING THIS FUND, VISIT GIVE.FULLERTON.EDU.