

# TITAN REPORT

## Educators Recognized for Extraordinary Impact

Cal State Fullerton alumni Ben Case and John Briquetet have been recognized for their extraordinary impact as Orange County educators.

An instrumental music and music theory teacher at Northwood High School in the Irvine Unified School District, Case '05, '10 (B.M. instrumental-music performance, M.M. music-performance) is one of five educators across the state recognized as the 2023 California Teachers of the Year. The honor is presented by the California Department of Education and supported by the California Teachers of the Year Foundation.

Briquetet '89, '99, '06 (B.A. English, M.S. education-reading, professional administrative credential) was a finalist for the 2023 National Principal of the Year from the National Association of Secondary School Principals. Briquetet currently serves as founding chancellor (principal) of Oxford Preparatory Academy, a public charter middle school expected to open next year in South Orange County.



[BIT.LY/ALUMNUS-TEACHER-OF-THE-YEAR-2022](https://bit.ly/alumnus-teacher-of-the-year-2022)



[BIT.LY/CSUF-FINALIST-PRINCIPAL-2022](https://bit.ly/csuf-finalist-principal-2022)



## Economists Dive Into Orange County's 'Mixed and Twisted Recovery'

At the 28th Annual Economic Forecast Conference in October, Cal State Fullerton economists Anil Puri and Mira Farka anticipated a recession, but not an extreme downturn as witnessed during COVID-19's early days or during the Great Recession of 2007-09.

The economists cited three reasons for the recession, including the timing of rate hikes, the pace of monetary firming, and a mix of monetary and fiscal policies.

Much as in the nation as a whole, Southern California has experienced a mixed and twisted recovery from the pandemic. Orange County has yet to fully recover jobs lost during the pandemic, with unemployment rates dipping as low as 2.4%.

"In addition to a large number of people retiring, those who stepped out of the labor force during the last two years appear to be slow in returning to work, leading to very tight labor markets," explained Puri and Farka.

Since the shutdowns of March 2020, home prices increased dramatically in the region, with Orange County reaching a staggering \$1.136 million median single-family home price in August 2022. Looking ahead, rising mortgage rates, unaffordability of housing and weakened demand will weigh heavily on the housing sector, likely causing a 10% to 15% decline in the region's home prices.

[BIT.LY/CSUF-SPOTLIGHT-ECON-FORECAST](https://bit.ly/csuf-spotlight-econ-forecast)



## CSUF Hosts Energy and Sustainability Summit

During Cal State Fullerton’s first Energy and Sustainability Summit, sponsored by Edison International, industry experts discussed statewide climate goals, how different sectors are working to enhance sustainability and how community partners are preparing the workforce to achieve a clean energy transition in Orange County.

“As we transition to clean energy, higher education institutions, like ours, will need to pivot as well in terms of what and how we are educating our students. At CSUF, we are already doing this,” said President Fram Virjee, noting that the university earned STARS Gold Rating from the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education.

[BIT.LY/CSUF-ENERGY-SUSTAINABILITY-SUMMIT-2022](https://bit.ly/csuf-energy-sustainability-summit-2022)



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**TITAN** noun | tī-tən  
one who stands out for **greatness of achievement**

### Your Gift Is Changing Lives

“Being on the Titan softball team is a great honor for me,” said Daisy Muñoz, a criminal justice major and infielder. “I’m the first one in my family to get a scholarship to play a sport at a Division 1 university.”

Mike Horn, professor emeritus of biological science, gave a \$40,000 matched gift to connect Titan Softball players with a sports psychologist — working to improve their mental stamina, game day performance and other lifelong skills.

More than 2,000 faculty and staff have supported the “It Takes a Titan” campaign. There’s still time to join the effort: [campaign.fullerton.edu](https://campaign.fullerton.edu).

