

# TITAN REPORT



## CSUF Biologist Honored With Wang Family Excellence Award

William “Bill” Hoese, professor of biological science, is the recipient of the California State University’s 2023 Wang Family Excellence Award for Outstanding Faculty Innovator for Student Success.

“Bill is an outstanding teacher and a creative curricular innovator. His contributions to student success, his department, university, and the scientific community are impressive in scope and depth,” noted CSUF President Fram Virjee in his nomination. “His work, recognized by multiple institutions of national significance, brings great prestige to the CSU.”

Hoese is CSUF’s 2021 Outstanding Professor and received the Carol Barnes Excellence in Teaching Award in 2015. He joined CSUF in 2000 and holds a doctorate in zoology from Duke University. He earned a master’s degree in biology and bachelor’s degree in human biology, both from Stanford University.

The award recognizes four faculty members and one staff member who have distinguished themselves through exemplary contributions and achievements. Honorees each receive an award, established through a gift from CSU Trustee Emeritus Stanley T. Wang.



## Building a Black Community for Students

As part of a universitywide commitment to eliminate anti-racist and nondiscriminatory behaviors and structures, CSUF outlined six Guiding Principles for Social Justice. One of these principles calls for a redoubling of efforts to recruit, retain and graduate students from underserved communities, specifically Black/African American students.

Black CommUnity is a new program within CSUF’s Department of Communications designed to support and retain Black students by offering advising workshops, mentoring, job and internship preparation, financial support, and social events. The program guides Black communications students as they persist toward their degrees and encourages community building and professional networking.

“Feeling connected is a critical factor in retention, especially coming out of the pandemic,” said Jasmine Phillips Meertins, assistant professor of communications and one of three faculty mentors. “Students are looking for opportunities to bond, and Black CommUnity is providing the space and structure to facilitate that.” Other mentors are Miya Williams Fayne, assistant professor of communications, and Amber Wilson, lecturer in communications.

The program will offer support for students to complete the required communications internship and build a robust alumni network. Up to 10 students will have the opportunity to travel to the 2023 International Communication Association conference in Toronto.

[BIT.LY/CSUF-BLACK-COMMUNITY](https://bit.ly/csuf-black-community)



## #TitansGive Returns March 8

Last year, more than \$490,000 was raised in one day to empower Cal State Fullerton students. Our Titan community was crucial in the success of this amazing day of giving. On March 8, we hope you will join us again and support your favorite CSUF cause. Your gifts will elevate academic opportunities and help launch the careers of our students. We will have exciting matches, challenges and contests to maximize the impact of your donations. Visit [titansgive.fullerton.edu](https://titansgive.fullerton.edu).

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

### Your Gift Is Changing Lives

"Once I chose my career, I wasn't sure where to start. I turned to the Center for Careers in Teaching at Cal State Fullerton and learned about the Men of Color in Education program. It intrigued me that there were other male educators with whom I could converse and connect with in the field," said Jonathan Oseguera, a Cal State Fullerton special education credential student.

The Center for Careers in Teaching in the College of Education received a transformational gift from SchoolsFirst Federal Credit Union to support future teachers through outreach, advising, workshops, and teacher preparation programs like Titan Future Teachers and Men of Color in Education.

Read more impact stories from the "It Takes a Titan" campaign at: [campaign.fullerton.edu](https://campaign.fullerton.edu).

