

TITANREPORT



Sylvia A. Alva Appointed Interim President

California State University Interim Chancellor Jolene Koester appointed Sylvia A. Alva to serve as interim president of Cal State Fullerton. She will begin her new role on Aug. 1, and will serve in that capacity until a new president is appointed by the CSU Board of Trustees.

Alva currently serves as the CSU's executive vice chancellor of academic and student affairs, and previously served as provost and vice president for academic affairs at Cal Poly Pomona as well as dean of the College of Health and Human Development at Cal State Northridge.

Alva began her career in higher education at Cal State Fullerton as a professor of child and adolescent development and later as associate vice president for undergraduate programs.

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Computer Science Grad Receives Amazon AI Scholarship

Class of 2023 computer science graduate José "Pepe" Tapia is working on a project to develop a low-cost recording software device that livestreams video to the cloud — bringing families together to watch a sports game live or after the game.

Tapia came up with the idea to use technology to remotely watch his younger brother play high school basketball after having to miss games while in college.

The first in his family to earn a bachelor's degree, Tapia was awarded an Amazon Web Services Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning Scholarship. The program prepares underrepresented students for careers in AI and machine learning.

"My passion is to use AI and machine learning to help others improve their quality of life and create stronger bonds between people," he said.

At Cal State Fullerton, the doors opened wide for Tapia, who had a 2.0 GPA in high school and little direction. He grabbed every opportunity. In the Abrego Future Scholars program for first-generation college students, he found a sense of belonging.

He was introduced to artificial intelligence and machine learning research through ASSURE-US, a \$1.5 million National Science Foundation-funded grant program to boost the number of Hispanic students in STEM careers.

[BIT.LY/CSUF-AMAZON-SCHOLARSHIP-AI](https://bit.ly/CSUF-AMAZON-SCHOLARSHIP-AI)



Finance Team Ranks in the World's Top 6

Cal State Fullerton's Titan Capital Management team ranked in the top 6 of 1,300 finance teams from the Americas, Asia, Europe, the Middle East and Africa that competed in a CFA (chartered financial analyst) Society stock competition. The team included Class of 2023 seniors Sam Fedrow, Jericho Cezar, Jacquelyn George and MBA student Brandon Leon.

Pitted against other high-ranking finance student teams, the competition challenged students to research, analyze and value a publicly traded company, and then present their findings to a panel of judges, who are industry professionals.

Founded 10 years ago, Titan Capital Management owes much of its success to Jeffrey S. Van Harte '80 (B.A. business administration-finance), chair and chief investment officer of Jackson Square Partners. His \$1.5 million gift helped make the center a reality.

[BIT.LY/CSUF-FINANCE-COMPETITION-DC](https://bit.ly/CSUF-FINANCE-COMPETITION-DC)



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

Musical Theatre Showcase Opens Doors

When Kelly Kudlik set foot in New York City for Cal State Fullerton's musical theatre showcase, her post-graduation plans were unclear. Within a week, she networked with an agent, got a callback for a role with Disney and made plans to move to the Big Apple.

Every year, seniors in the musical theatre program perform in a showcase for talent agents, managers, casting directors and producers. For the first time, all 14 students received a call after the show.

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