

TITANREPORT



CSUF Awarded Grant to Advance Black Student Success

To advance Black student success and elevate Black excellence, Cal State Fullerton was awarded a one-time grant of \$250,000 from the California State University system that will be used to expand pathways for first-year students, support learning communities and inclusive curriculum, and reinforce equitable searches for tenure-track faculty.

The grant is part of a systemwide initiative led by the CSU's Black Student Success Workgroup to reimagine how the nation's largest four-year public university system supports Black students and addresses persistent trends in low Black student enrollment, retention and graduation rates. The CSU announced a 2024 allocation of \$4,630,846 to 23 campuses, which is part of a \$10 million commitment over the next three years to fund priority areas outlined in the report "Advancing Black Student Success in the CSU."

The funding allocated to CSUF will support two key initiatives. Through the Conducting Equitable and Inclusive Workshop Search Series, CSUF faculty and staff will learn more about tenure-track faculty recruitment, interview processes and evaluation of candidates using research-based practices to mitigate bias.

The Equitable Pedagogy Module is a universitywide intervention focusing on anti-Blackness and the impact of white supremacy in classroom practices.

"With the financial commitment from the Chancellor's Office, our campus can continue to make intentional impact on our Black student experiences in and outside the classroom," said Cecil Chik, assistant vice president for diversity, inclusion and equity and chief diversity officer.

news.fullerton.edu/advance-black-student-success-2024



Chef Roy Choi Inspires the Class of 2024

Cal State Fullerton alumnus and gourmet food truck owner Roy Choi spoke to the graduating Class of 2024 at the College of Business and Economics' May 22 commencement ceremony, where he was recognized with an honorary doctorate for his dedication to uplifting the community and success in business leadership.

Choi '94 (B.A. philosophy) is known for his achievements as a restaurateur, New York Times best-selling author and owner of the popular Korean-Mexican taco truck, Kogi BBQ.

"Lead with kindness, love and generosity. I know businesses are about scale and growth and domination, but we can be rich without others having to be poor. There's a world where that can exist — and you can lead that change," said Choi.

news.fullerton.edu/roy-choi-2024



Celestina Barbosa-Leiker Named Dean of College of Health and Human Development

Following a national search, Celestina Barbosa-Leiker was appointed dean of Cal State Fullerton's College of Health and Human Development, effective July 1.

Barbosa-Leiker's research focuses on substance use in underserved populations, demonstrating gender differences in the measurement of opioid withdrawal, relapse while in treatment and predictors of relapse. She previously served as executive vice chancellor and a professor in the College of Nursing at Washington State University Health Sciences Spokane.

news.fullerton.edu/celestina-barbosa-leiker



2600 Nutwood Avenue, Suite 850
Fullerton, CA 92831

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Class of 2024 Engineering Grad Lands Construction Management Job

Class of 2024 civil engineering grad Oscar Sosa Cordova is the first in his family to earn a college degree, thanks to scholarship support, opportunities as a McNair Scholar and resources available at the Titan Dreamers Resource Center.

After graduation, Sosa Cordova landed his first engineering position at a construction management firm. He also plans to earn a graduate degree and a professional engineer license.

news.fullerton.edu/oscar-sosa-cordova

