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On the Cover

Joshua Bhasera, a Class of 2024 psychology major, is the recipient of the Alumni Assocation's 2024 Outstanding Senior Award.

President's Message

Dear Titan Community,

Let me begin by saying thank you. Since joining Cal State Fullerton as president in July, my family and I have been welcomed with open arms. Whether at a campus or community event, over popsicles or pancakes, many of you have intentionally taken the time to meet with me or introduce yourselves. You may have noticed that I love telling stories, so let me share one here.

In our first few months here in Fullerton, my wife, Lynn, and I decided to check out a local restaurant recommended by many of you: Thai Basil. We ran into a group of high school students who took the time to introduce themselves to us. At one point, they left the restaurant and returned with boba drinks for us. I was moved by this simple act of kindness and generosity, and I was filled with a deep sense of hope and optimism. You see, these students right here are our future. Should they choose to attend Cal State Fullerton — we hope they do — we will do everything in our power to ensure an exceptional educational experience for them. There is no greater mission for us than to give each and every student the applied and theoretical knowledge to graduate and be positive change-makers in the world.

If you are receiving this Annual Report, you are no stranger to this type of kindness and generosity because you model it with your continued support of our university. Thanks to your gifts of time, talent and treasure, we raised more than \$29 million in gifts during the 2023-24 fiscal year to support every corner of our campus. Notably, 2,768 donors came

together on March 6, 2024, for our fifth annual #TitansGive 24-hour digital fundraising event, raising a record-breaking \$704,373 for more than 140 campus causes. Your collective generosity also gives me great hope and optimism.

Earlier this year, Cal State Fullerton unveiled its
Fullerton Forward 2024-29 strategic plan. It's a bold
plan that focuses on enhancing academic access
and success, fostering student engagement and
well-being, recruiting and retaining a high-quality
and diverse faculty and staff, strengthening the
university's physical and financial capacity, and
innovating campus operations. This plan is centered
on shared work — our work — and only together
can we make this plan a reality.

I am extremely excited to serve as president of Cal State Fullerton and am grateful to you for understanding how collective generosity can propel students into

successful futures. As a first-generation college student, I know firsthand the transformative power of higher education and am committed to delivering on this promise for every Titan.

With gratitude,

Dr. Ronald S. Rochon

Opportunity Starts Here

Cal State Fullerton creates pathways to help students achieve their academic goals, become leaders in their fields and reach their fullest potential. A Titan degree broadens career opportunities, increases social mobility and enriches personal growth.

Opportunity starts here.



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UNIVERSITY

- Unveiled Cal State Fullerton's new, five-year strategic plan: Fullerton Forward 2024-29
- Awarded 11,137 degrees during the 2023-24 academic year, and presented Kogi BBQ truck co-founder and CSUF alum Roy Choi '94 with an honorary doctorate at Commencement 2024
- Received \$9 million in grants from the U.S.
 Department of Education to support research and development, student retention, and academic success
- Celebrated the 25th anniversary of the Guardian Scholars Program, the first program of its kind in the nation

- Launched the CAPS Mobile Crisis Team, a partnership between Counseling and Psychological Services and the CSUF Police Department
- Received a \$250,000 grant from the CSU to advance Black student success
- Losquadro Keller LGBTQ Resource Center was renamed in honor of Michael T.
 Losquadro '86 and Dr. Brian C. Keller, who pledged \$1.5 million to support students
- Associated Student Inc.'s Beyond the Conversation speaker series brought actors Ke Huy Quan, Issa Rae, Tyler James Williams and Diane Guerrero to campus

- Titans Softball were named Big West champions, and Titans Women's and Men's Soccer clinched Big West regular season titles
- Vision & Visionaries awards recognized four Titan alumni and two honorary alumni: Laura Archuleta '86, '91, Scott Coler '85, Jose Lara '02, Pamela Schweitzer '82, Francis Colwell and Margaret Faulwell Gordon

COLLEGE OF THE ARTS

 Made significant progress on the renovation of the College of the Arts visual arts complex, which includes a state-of-the-art green screen room and more

- Students from the devised performance/ physical theatre program performed "Accidentally on Purpose" at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival in Scotland
- University Singers traveled to Rwanda and South Africa as part of a humanitarian concert tour, performing alongside Rwandan Choirs
- Lisa Long, professor of theatre and dance, created "In Tandem" at Hallberg Theatre, giving audiences the unique opportunity to surround the stage on all four sides
- Art students used artificial intelligence and augmented reality to design a virtual experience at the Arboretum and Botanical Garden at Cal State Fullerton













COLLEGE OF BUSINESS AND ECONOMICS

- Broke ground on the new Landmark Hall, a \$28.5 million iconic building that will house the Giles-O'Malley Center for Leadership and Erhard Institute for Leadership Studies and serve as a hub for leadership education in Orange County and beyond
- Maintained dual accreditation for six more years from the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB), making it the only college in Orange County to have dual accreditation for both business administration studies and accounting
- Opened the Titan Capital Management **Investment Research Center and Accounting** Analytics Lab, reinforcing the college's commitment to providing students with cutting-edge technology and an experiential education
- Launched the inaugural Women's Day event, featuring acclaimed empowerment coach and author Jennifer McCollum
- Partnered with the Yuukke nonprofit organization to support entrepreneurial education for women worldwide

COLLEGE OF COMMUNICATIONS

- Sen. Josh Newman, who chairs the education committee of the California State Senate, recognized the College of Communications for its 35th anniversary
- Distinguished alumni Christina House '06, Pulitzer Prize-winning photographer for the Los Angeles Times, and Damon Whiteside '96, chief executive officer at the Academy of Country Music, were inducted into the Department of Communications' Alumni Wall of Fame
- 26 communications students traveled to the 2024 Paris Olympics to learn about sports reporting on a global stage and produce content for a variety of platforms, including the Orange County Register
- The Daily Titan won six Best of Show awards at the Associated Collegiate Press Spring National College Media Conference, including first place for advertising media kit
- Graduate students won the 2024 California Speech-Language-Hearing Association annual College Bowl competition

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COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

- Launched the Bachelor of Arts in urban learning, the college's first undergraduate major which emphasizes just, equitable and inclusive education
- Advanced bilingual/plurilingual education through such programs as the California State University Asian Language Bilingual Teacher Education Program Consortium, Project Propel and Project AMIELA
- Earned the maximum, seven-year accreditation term from the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing

- More than 65% of education faculty members continued to improve their understanding of teaching and learning online
- Celebrated the 10-year anniversary of the SchoolsFirst Federal Credit Union Center for Careers in Teaching becoming part of the College of Education

COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING AND COMPUTER SCIENCE

 With the estimated start of construction in early 2025 and opening in 2027, the ECS Innovation Hub will launch a new era in the College of Engineering and Computer Science

- A civil engineering student team won the National GeoWall Student Competition
- Kanika Sood, associate professor of computer science, and Rakesh Mahto, associate professor of electrical and computer engineering, were awarded the CSU CREATE Award for their project, Leveraging Machine Learning/Artificial Intelligence for Responsive and Equitable Teaching and Engagement
- 18 student teams pitched ideas to address real-world social justice issues at Engineering Social Justice: A Design Challenge, with cash prizes awarded to the top three teams

 Students led a two-day ECS Diversity and Leadership Summit to address Al's impact on leadership and diversity

COLLEGE OF HEALTH AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

- Ánimo Counseling Program was named one of 19 Examples of Excelencia finalists in the nation for 2023
- Launched PATH Academy to help meet
 California's demand for health care workers
- Awarded a \$5 million grant from CalOptima Health to expand the Bachelor of Science in nursing program



- Joshua Yang, professor of public health, was awarded a \$1.2 million grant from the Regents of the University of California, Office of the President, for a three-year study on nicotine and cannabis use
- Amirah Saafir, assistant professor of child and adolescent studies, was featured in the 2024 Netflix documentary, "Black Barbie"

COLLEGE OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

 Granted \$4.7 million in sponsored projects, including a National Endowment of the Humanities grant for the "Pandemic Voces" oral history project

- Elise Wang, assistant professor of English, comparative literature and linguistics, was selected as one of 28 scholars in the U.S. for the 2024 Andrew Carnegie Fellows Program
- Launched the Ghana Study Abroad program in collaboration with the African American Resource Center
- Created a Passage to the Future program, which provides students opportunities to explore topics like corporate social responsibility; ethics; and diversity, equity and inclusion
- Hired 11 new tandem advisers to ensure that students have consistent and timely support in charting their academic paths

COLLEGE OF NATURAL SCIENCES AND MATHEMATICS

- Biological science faculty members worked to revise curricula to increase student success and decrease degree completion time for a record 1,400 majors
- Chemistry and biochemistry faculty members were awarded \$2.4 million in research funding from such agencies as the National Science Foundation, U.S. Department of Energy, National Institutes of Health, U.S. Department of Defense, American Chemical Society and Social Science Research Council
- Student-led research with Matthew E. Kirby, professor of geological sciences, revealed evidence for multiple epic floods in the past 500 years in Southern California
- Mathematics faculty members developed new mathematics courses and an interdisciplinary, cross-university data science minor to equip students for in-demand jobs
- Physics faculty members from the Nicholas and Lee Begovich Center for Gravitational-Wave Physics and Astronomy were selected for a National Science Foundation team charged with designing the new Cosmic Explorer





Joshua Bhasera '24

(B.A. psychology)

Joshua Bhasera's parents traveled 10,000 miles from Zimbabwe this spring to watch their son cross Cal State Fullerton's commencement stage and earn his bachelor's degree in psychology. "The university will always hold deep significance in my life, and I'm incredibly thankful for the privilege I've had to be part of the Titan family," he says.

An aspiring clinical psychologist, Joshua is passionate about ensuring equal access to high-quality mental health care and democratizing the cost of such services. For his scholarly achievements, community service and campus involvement, Joshua was honored with the Alumni Association's 2024 Outstanding Senior Award.

Ryutaro Ichihara '21, '24

(B.S., M.S. kinesiology)

Ryutaro Ichihara, an international student and two-time kinesiology alum, made the most of his time at Cal State Fullerton. He completed a thesis on how people with cerebral palsy experience physical fitness, which he presented at the International Association for the Philosophy of Sport Annual Conference. The research garnered him the university's 2024 Giles T. Brown Thesis Excellence Award.

For his academic achievements, community involvement and demonstration of Titan pride, Ryutaro received the Alumni Association's 2024 Outstanding Graduate Student Award. "I was born and raised in Japan, but I was reborn and reraised in the U.S. at Cal State Fullerton," he says.









Kyrstin Huxtable '24

(B.A. business administration)

When Kyrstin Huxtable graduated in spring, she already had her first professional job lined up with Big Four accounting firm KPMG. As a deal advisory and strategy associate, Kyrstin helps business clients with complex financial reporting and deal-related accounting issues.

As a business honors student, Kyrstin connected with like-minded peers and had the opportunity to study abroad in Argentina and Brazil. She also was a member of Titan Capital Management, which provides students hands-on experience in real-world security analysis and stock and bond portfolio management. "The wealth of opportunities at CSUF helped me figure out my career path," she says.

Sunny Ng '24 (M.S. physics)

When Sunny Ng was researching graduate schools, he sought out Cal State Fullerton, aspiring to work with researchers in its Nicholas and Lee Begovich Center for Gravitational-Wave Physics and Astronomy.

As a student researcher, Sunny co-authored findings from the first gravitational-wave detection of a mass-gap object paired with a neutron star. The gravitational-wave detection, known as "GW230529," was part of a global research effort between GWPAC and the LIGO Scientific Collaboration. "Being a part of the GWPAC team and working on groundbreaking science has been an amazing learning experience," says Sunny, a first-generation college graduate who is working toward a career in nuclear astrophysics.











Oscar Sosa Cordova '24

(B.S. civil engineering)

Oscar Sosa Cordova didn't know any engineers growing up or believe he could become one. Peers told him that college was out of reach and that even if he graduated, he wouldn't be able to work in the U.S. due to his immigration status. "I put my head down, but raised it right away," says the Cal State Fullerton civil engineering student. "I promised myself that I would do everything in my power to succeed."

A first-generation DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals) college student, Oscar became the first in his family to earn a bachelor's degree this spring. He landed an engineering position at a construction management firm.

Thalia Moore '24

(B.M. music)

Thalia Moore transferred from Norco College to join University Singers, CSUF's top choral ensemble. Led by a Grammy Award-winning music professor, the ensemble has a history of collaborating with renowned orchestras like the Los Angeles Philharmonic and working with famous conductors like John Williams.

The aspiring singer stacked her portfolio with performances at the War Memorial Opera House, Los Angeles Opera House and Hollywood Bowl. Post-graduation, Thalia landed a role in the San Francisco Opera's "Beethoven's Ninth Symphony."

The music grad notes, "I came to CSUF as a transfer student, and immediately, the musicianship of the school drove me to be successful."













Junely Merwin '19, '24

(B.S. human services, M.S. higher education)

Junely Merwin entered foster care in Los Angeles when she was 15 years old, navigating the complexities of the system while raising her son and moving between three homes. Determined to succeed in higher education, she applied to Cal State Fullerton's Guardian Scholars, a program that offers support services and substantial financial resources to former foster youth.

It was a "turning point" in her story. "I understood that this scholarship was my ticket to ensuring a brighter future for both myself and my son," shares Junely, who plans to pursue a career as a national speaker and advocate who inspires change in the foster care system.

Robbie Loya '24

(B.A. communications)

A sports fan to his core, Robbie Loya grew up watching Titans Athletics. As a communications student at Cal State Fullerton, he gained hands-on experience in sports broadcast media through Titans Sports Network. The program provided him opportunities to livestream events and produce original content for ESPN+.

With dreams of calling games for a professional sports team, Robbie launched his career with a post-graduation job as a play-by-play broadcaster for the Lake Elsinore Storm, a Minor League Baseball team. "To be able to say that I'm 23 years old and I've already broadcast more than 100 sports games for a Division I school is incredible," he says.







Thanks to the unwavering support of the Titan community,
Cal State Fullerton raised more than \$29 million during the
2023-24 fiscal year to advance student success, empower
faculty and staff, and lay the foundation for future generations.
The power of collective philanthropy was on full display during
the fifth annual #TitansGive day of giving, when 2,768 donors
came together to raise \$704,373 in just 24 hours.

In addition, Cal State Fullerton secured \$57.8 million in grants and contracts during the 2023-24 fiscal year, marking a 25% increase over the previous fiscal year. The university received approximately 150 awards from various federal, state and local governments, as well as private and nonprofit organizations.

\$29,173,002

raised during 2023-24 fiscal year

\$704,373

raised on #TitansGive day of giving, March 6, 2024

\$57,796,859

awarded in grants and contracts during 2023-24 fiscal year

\$148,676,745

endowment value, June 2024

\$219,972,471

total foundation assets, June 2024



Giving Stories



Alumni Empower Aspiring Artists

Supporting the School of Music

Believing in the power of creativity and recognizing the impact of a Titan education, **Bob and Terri Niccum** made a \$2.5 million bequest to The Bob & Terri Niccum New Music

Scholarship Endowment, which supports students in CSUF's New Music Ensemble.

The couple holds four degrees between them: Bob '68, '84 (B.A. psychology, MBA) and Terri '73, '84 (B.A. English, M.A. communications). Terri shares, "It's really a thank you to a university that not only brought us together, but also gave us the skills for our careers and inspired us to stay connected to our creativity."

#TitansGive Day of Giving

Supporting 140+ Campus Causes

During an impactful, 24-hour digital fundraising event, the Cal State Fullerton community came together to raise funds for more than 140 campus causes. An impressive \$704,373 was raised with the help of more than 2,768 donors during the fifth annual #TitansGive day of giving on March 6, 2024.

With matches sponsored by donors and companies, the funds raised will support scholarships, academic programs, athletics, the arts and more. "We rally our entire community," says Grace Johnson, director of annual giving. "We love to have alumni supporting the programs, centers or clubs that meant something to them, or that they received support from."









Giving Stories



Siblings Create Fund to Honor Father

Supporting International Education

To honor their late father, Cal State Fullerton alumni and Advance Beauty College leaders **Tam and Linh Nguyen** established the Minh Tam Nguyen Endowment Fund for International Education at Cal State Fullerton. The fund will benefit students who want to study abroad as well as international students who want to pursue an education at CSUF.

Both Tam '05 (MBA) and Linh are alumni of CSUF's College of Business and Economics and longtime supporters of the university. "This fund will help keep my father's legacy alive, and allow students to experience the meaningful educational opportunities we had ourselves at CSUF," shares Linh '98, '17 (B.A. business administration-management, MBA).

Former ASI President Gives Back

Supporting the College of Engineering and Computer Science, Titans Athletics and Associated Students Inc.

Two-time Cal State Fullerton alum **Josh Mitchell** '21, '23 (*B.S., M.S. computer engineering*) made a \$20,000 gift to support the College of Engineering and Computer Science, Titans Athletics and Associated Students Inc. Post-graduation, Josh began his career as a data engineer for Poshmark and now works as a software data engineer for Apple.

"Cal State Fullerton is one of the best educations that you can receive for the cost of tuition and I wouldn't trade my undergraduate or master's experience for another university," says Josh, who served as ASI president from 2021-22. "I am a Titan for life."







Fullerton Forward Strategic Plan 2024-29

Cal State Fullerton's strategic plan, Fullerton Forward 2024-29, outlines the university's priorities, goals and vision for the next five years. The plan was developed in collaboration with the Titan community to set forth a thoughtful and aspirational roadmap for the university, distinguishing Cal State Fullerton as a model institution that empowers future leaders and makes a positive impact on communities.

GOAL 1: ENHANCE SUPPORT FOR STUDENT ACCESS, LEARNING AND ACADEMIC SUCCESS

- Expand access to higher education for traditional and nontraditional learners, enrich learning experiences through diverse and innovative academic offerings, and enhance support services and infrastructure to ensure students' retention and graduation, as well as their mastery of the knowledge and skills needed to reach professional and personal goals.
- Expand flexible pathways to reach and attract diverse learners to access the university's academic offerings.
- Provide equitable, engaging and innovative learning experiences to foster students' ability to apply the knowledge, skills and cultural awareness gained through their academic programs.
- Ensure equitable, innovative and comprehensive academic support to guide students throughout their academic and career pathways.

GOAL 2: FOSTER STUDENT ENGAGEMENT AND WELL-BEING

- Support student engagement and holistic growth in an inclusive campus environment, cultivate a sense of belonging for all students of diverse backgrounds that include undergraduate, graduate, postbaccalaureate, credential and non-degree students, and provide comprehensive resources to support their mental health, physical wellness, and financial and basic needs.
- Enhance student engagement opportunities and experiences to foster "Titan pride."
- Strengthen proactive, responsive and innovative approaches to improving student mental health and physical wellness.
- Revitalize financial and basic needs support to enhance student success.

GOAL 3: RECRUIT, DEVELOP AND RETAIN HIGH-QUALITY AND DIVERSE FACULTY AND STAFF

- Recruit, develop, and retain diverse faculty and staff by supporting professional and personal growth.
- Increase the number and diversity
 of faculty and staff through effective
 and equitable recruitment strategies,
 with concentrated attention to those
 from historically underrepresented
 communities.
- Establish a campus climate that fosters faculty and staff inclusion and belonging, free of discrimination, harassment, retaliation and other conduct of concern.
- Support faculty and staff growth through strengthened professional development.

GOAL 4: EXPAND AND STRENGTHEN PHYSICAL AND FINANCIAL CAPACITY AND COMMUNITY RELATIONS

- Augment revenue opportunities and philanthropic investment for the university, and create innovative use of the university's limited physical spaces to best support student learning and the evolving needs of the broader Titan community.
- Continue campus modernization to build a safe, beautiful and sustainable campus environment.

- Enhance financial capacity, budgetary accountability and philanthropic investment.
- Increase externally funded research and scholarly activities.
- Strengthen the reciprocal relationship amongst the university, alumni and communities.

GOAL 5: INNOVATE AND IMPROVE CAMPUS OPERATIONS

- Improve the effectiveness and efficiency of campus operations through adoption of best practices and cultivation of a culture of innovation.
- Modernize institutional processes to reduce bureaucratic complexity, encourage innovation, and foster collaboration and resource-sharing.
- Deepen a culture of outcome-oriented assessment and data-informed decision making.
- Update technical infrastructure and support to meet the evolving needs of students, faculty and staff.

To read the complete Fullerton Forward 2024-29 strategic plan, visit **planning.fullerton.edu**.

Ways to Give

Our work is made possible by the incredible generosity of our Titan community. Discover how you can support Cal State Fullerton and make a lasting impact in the lives of our students. There are many ways to give, whether through cash, stock and securities, or gifts of real estate and other personal property.

GREATEST NEEDS GIFTS

Gifts made to our Titan Fund, Titan Scholarship Fund or Basic Needs Services allow us to swiftly allocate resources to address emerging needs, provide scholarships, and support students who face unforeseen hardships such as food, housing and financial insecurity.

COLLEGE GIFTS

With a gift to one of our eight colleges, you can support students, faculty and staff in advancing academic scholarship, creating hands-on learning opportunities and achieving national prominence.

PROGRAM GIFTS

Program gifts support treasured campus organizations, including Titans Athletics, the Arboretum and Botanical Garden at Cal State Fullerton, Pollak Library, and Student Affairs. Every dollar designated to a specific program goes directly to that program.

TRIBUTE GIFTS

A tribute gift to Cal State Fullerton recognizes the cherished members of our Titan family. It is a meaningful way to convey sympathy to the bereaved, memorialize a loved one, commemorate a special occasion, or honor a person's life and accomplishments.

MATCHING GIFTS

Many employers sponsor matching gift programs and will match charitable contributions made by their employees. Some companies even match gifts made by retirees and/or spouses. With matching gifts, it's possible to double or even triple your gift.

ONTIVEROS LEGACY SOCIETY

If you make a planned gift, such as a bequest or beneficiary designation; a deferred gift, such as a charitable gift annuity or charitable remainder trust; or you have provided for the university through your will or living trust, you are invited to become a member of the Ontiveros Legacy Society.

TITAN INSIDERS

Titan Insiders are alumni, faculty, staff, emeriti, family and friends who make an annual contribution of \$1,000 or more. Their investments directly impact vital scholarships, transform our campus and enhance hands-on learning opportunities for our students.

Learn More: give.fullerton.edu

University Advancement 2600 Nutwood Ave., Suite 850 Fullerton, CA 92831 657-278-4180 / giving@fullerton.edu

University Leadership

Ronald S. Rochon, President

Amir Dabirian, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

Jim Donovan, Director of Athletics

David Forgues, Vice President for Student Affairs

Nina Garcia, Chief of Staff

Phenicia McCullough, Vice President for Human Resources,

Diversity and Inclusion

Alexander Porter, Vice President for Administration and Finance/CFO

Kimberly Shiner, Vice President for University Advancement and

Executive Director of the Cal State Fullerton Philanthropic Foundation

Su Swarat, Senior Associate Vice President for Institutional Effectiveness

and Planning, Accreditation Liaison Officer

Catherine Barrad, University Counsel

Arnold Holland, Dean of the College of the Arts

Sridhar Sundaram, Dean of the College of Business and Economics

Jason Shepard, Dean of the College of Communications

Lisa Kirtman, Dean of the College of Education

Susan Barua, Dean of the College of Engineering and Computer Science

Celestina Barbosa-Leiker, Dean of the College of Health

and Human Development

Jessica Yirush Stern, Dean of the College of Humanities and Social Sciences

Marie Johnson, Dean of the College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics

Eric Hanson, Dean of the Pollak Library



University Advancement 2600 Nutwood Avenue, Suite 850 Fullerton, CA 92831

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