

TITAN REPORT



Nicholas and Lee Begovich pledge \$10 Million to Campaign

Longtime university donors Nicholas and Lee Begovich have committed to a \$10 million planned gift to benefit gravitational-wave, engineering and computer science faculty and student research.

The Fullerton couple's gift — one of the largest such gifts in the university's history — was announced February 29. Begovich, an aficionado for postwar European sports cars, is donating 15 cars — valued at \$10 million — to the university.

He shared his reason for giving and supporting the university: "I can't tell you how happy I am about this. It completes my life."



In recognition of the Begoviches' latest significant gift to support gravitational-wave research, the university's academic and research center will bear their names: Nicholas and Lee Begovich Center for Gravitational-Wave Physics and Astronomy.

'IT TAKES A TITAN: THE CAMPAIGN FOR CAL STATE FULLERTON'

Cal State Fullerton is a national leader in providing quality education and equitable access and opportunity to students. However, CSUF faces the daunting challenge of continuing to meet student needs amid declining state funding, a surging student population and an aging campus infrastructure. "It Takes a Titan: The Campaign for Cal State Fullerton" — the university's first-ever comprehensive philanthropic campaign — will enable the university to continue to deliver on the promise of higher education. The five-year, \$200 million initiative prioritizes investments in academic innovation, student empowerment, campus transformation and community enrichment. It is an opportunity for the entire Titan family to be the difference in elevating the potential of the remarkable students at CSUF.

TO LEARN MORE OR SUPPORT THE CAMPAIGN, VISIT CAMPAIGN.FULLERTON.EDU.



Predicting Wildfire Spread: Engineering Students Develop Smart Drone

Wildfires across the globe pose a lethal threat to humans, wildlife, property and biodiversity. In California, where the frequency of fires has skyrocketed, these destructive blazes sparked a novel idea for a team of Cal State Fullerton mechanical engineering students.

The students' vision is to create a system using smart drone technology to predict and track the spread of wildfires, and ultimately, prevent fires from growing to an uncontrollable size, said student co-lead Abdulmohsen Aleissa. The team's prototype, which uses a multidisciplinary approach involving areas such as thermodynamics, heat transfer, computer-aided engineering and data-driven technologies, is getting attention. The team won second place and a \$2,000 prize in the Pix4D Climate Contest, where college and industry teams from 31 countries competed with projects that address the climate crisis.

READ MORE AT [NEWS.FULLERTON.EDU/2020WI/WILDFIRE-DRONE-RESEARCH](https://news.fullerton.edu/2020wi/wildfire-drone-research).



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



TITANS of Giving

QUYEN TIEN

Quyen Tien '15 (B.A. communications) was thankful for the support and opportunities she received through a scholarship when she was a student at CSUF. A recipient of the Bergstrom Family Scholarship, Tien has found success in her career and wants to pay it forward to current students in the College of Communications. Through her donation, the Tien Family Scholarship will be awarded for the first time this spring and will provide an annual scholarship of \$1,000 to students with financial need who have overcome a personal or financial challenge while at CSUF. Tien believes that the Bergstrom Family Scholarship made a difference in her education and she hopes her family can do the same for others.

SUPPORT THE COLLEGE OF COMMUNICATIONS.

TO MAKE A GIFT, VISIT [GIVING.FULLERTON.EDU](https://giving.fullerton.edu)