Titan Nurses Battle the COVID-19 Pandemic

Ten faculty members from Cal State Fullerton's top-ranked School of Nursing are on the battleground of the COVID-19 pandemic, working in emergency departments and intensive care units while continuing to teach virtual classes.

"I prepare myself for each shift by reminding myself that this is the occupation I chose and that I need to have courage, follow my instincts, use my professional judgment and provide the best care I can provide to any patient, COVID-19 or no COVID-19," said Christine Vu, an assistant professor of nursing who practices in the Emergency Department at Kaiser Permanente Irvine.

Other faculty members, such as Maria Matza, are partnering with organizations like Cal State Fullerton's Latino Communications Institute to provide health information and offer messages of hope to Orange County's Spanish-speaking community. "There is misinformation," she said. "I felt I needed to do something."

Nursing students also have jumped in to help during the pandemic, from volunteering as disaster relief workers for the OC Health Care Agency to testing the feasibility of using anesthesia gas machines as long-term ventilators for COVID-19 patients.

“I would be lying if I said that this pandemic does not scare me, but I would not change my decision to become a nurse," said nursing student Courtney Van Buren. "Nothing gives me the sense of fulfillment that I get when I am caring for patients."

VIRTUAL COMMENCEMENT CELEBRATION PLANNED FOR TITAN CLASS OF 2020

While the university continues to explore options for students to walk across the commencement stage in the future, a virtual celebration is being planned to honor graduates on June 13.

“We felt terrible that the Class of 2020 was unable to get the ceremony they deserved, so we wanted to do something special, and we came up with the virtual commencement celebration,” said Greg Saks, vice president for university advancement. “This is not to take the place of a physical commencement, which we still hope will happen, but to offer something during the traditional commencement season.”

The Virtual Commencement Celebration is an online place to gather and celebrate Cal State Fullerton's graduating class of 2020, offering social media activities and a Class of 2020 virtual yearbook — a compilation of personalized, interactive slides where graduates will be able to customize their own slide with a photo and a favorite quote. When people click on it, they will be able to view the photo and quote ... and the graduate’s name will be read.

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Management Expert Discusses the Future of Supply Chains

Americans inevitably have seen or heard about empty store shelves and the rationing of toilet paper amid the COVID-19 pandemic. Is there something inherently wrong with the supply chain?

Not really, said Min Choi, assistant professor of management and supply chain expert at Cal State Fullerton. Although the current crisis is exposing its weaknesses, “the pandemic actually presents an opportunity for businesses and supply chain management professionals to rethink their priorities,” she said.

As business has globalized, many companies have prioritized lowering costs, streamlining manufacturing and sourcing overseas to produce items more efficiently and cheaply. Supply chains have become “stretched out” — meaning that the flow of materials, information and financial resources to deliver products to the right place, at the right time, in the right quantities is quite complex, involving multiple companies across country borders.

Ways to gain greater flexibility include more local production and offering products and services online. Choi foresees companies using learnings from the COVID-19 crisis to better balance cost and flexibility priorities, allowing them to be more resilient in future disruptions. BIT.LY/CSUF-SUPPLY-CHAINS-LESSONS

EMERITI OF CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, FULLERTON

The CSUF Emeriti Association has a long tradition of contributions to the university through its scholarship endowment funds, library endowment fund and annual contribution to the Guardian Scholars program.

In response to the Titan Emergency Funds established to help students, faculty members and staff employees impacted by the novel coronavirus crisis, the executive committee voted to provide a challenge grant of $1,957 to encourage individual giving by emeriti members. Emeriti responded with donations totaling $5,735.54. This triggered a second matching grant of $1,957 from the Vanguard Charitable Foundation, bringing the grand total to $9,649.54.

“Our emeriti represent thousands of cumulative years of service to CSUF,” said Jack Bedell, president of the Emeriti Association. “When we heard there were students and others hurting because of the implications of the virus, there was immediate response. Immediate! We hope others join us in easing suffering in this most unusual of times.”

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