



CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY  
FULLERTON

60  
YEARS

# TITAN REPORT

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## Moving from Passion Into Action: Framroze Virjee Takes the Helm Education, Social Justice Drive New CSUF President

It was a deep belief in equality and social justice that drew CSUF President Framroze (Fram) Virjee to the study of law, and a lengthy career at the law firm O'Melveny & Myers that allowed him to put his passion for education to work. Virjee spent 30 years at O'Melveny & Myers, the oldest law firm in Los Angeles and one of the largest in the nation.

While at O'Melveny & Myers, he was always on the lookout for a way to pursue his dedication to education and social mobility. "I suppose that is why I always had, I guess you would call a devoted niche practice of representing educational institutions — from the very small to some of the largest in the world." Indeed, Virjee dedicated much of his time at the firm representing the Los Angeles Unified School District — the largest public school system in California and the second largest in the United States.

In 2014, Virjee joined the California State University as executive vice chancellor and general counsel. In this position, he also served as secretary to the system's board of trustees.

This past December, CSU Chancellor Timothy White named him president of California State University, Fullerton effective Jan. 1. He succeeded Mildred García, who, on Jan. 22, became president of the American Association of State Colleges and Universities.

"My time at the Chancellor's Office was an amazing experience," he said. "I really enjoyed it, but you don't get to directly interact with students or faculty. Coming to Fullerton is an opportunity to have a much greater direct impact."

At Virjee's side throughout his career has been his wife, Julie. Together, they had three sons and now enjoy the addition of one grandson.

"Julie and I made a specific decision to move to Fullerton and be a part of the community," Virjee said. "I get to connect my personal passion for social justice, social mobility and education with my professional passion for doing those things as part of a community. I think that's going to be really exciting. It's a new beginning."



## ALUMNI AND FOUNDING PARTNERS HELP LAUNCH LATINO COMMUNICATIONS INSTITUTE

Cal State Fullerton College of Communications alumni, faculty and supporters rallied recently to celebrate the successes of graduates and students in the college's Latino Communications Initiative and to announce the program's launch as an institute.

Institute Director Inez González began the program as an initiative in 2013 with founding partners Univision, Casanova/McCann and Southwest Airlines. Through the years, the program has built on its promise to create a workforce pipeline between the University's students and Spanish-bilingual media organizations. The program offers opportunities for students, including a Spanish for Hispanic Media academic certificate, and immersive ways for students to engage in research activities in the Latino market.



## U.S. NEWS RANKS CSUF'S ONLINE GRADUATE PROGRAMS AMONG NATION'S BEST

Cal State Fullerton's fully online master's degree programs in business, engineering and education are ranked among the best in the country — with all moving up in the annual rankings of the 2018 Best Online Degree Programs announced Jan. 9 by *U.S. News & World Report*.

"We're absolutely thrilled to add these new rankings to Cal State Fullerton's list of academic honors," said Kari Knutson Miller, provost and vice president for academic affairs.

CSUF's Mihaylo College of Business and Economics program, tied with Georgetown University, and is the No. 1 ranked program in California in this category, which does not include MBA programs.

Marking the biggest gain, CSUF's online graduate programs in engineering climbed to No. 16 out of 67 ranked programs — up from the 2017 ranking of 26th. CSUF's graduate-level online education programs rank 46th out of 219 nationwide institutions, up from No. 47 last year.

## CSUF ROTC STUDENTS COMMISSIONED

A ceremony in which four U.S. Army cadets from the Reserve Officer Training Corps accepted commission for duty as second lieutenants, was recently held at CSUF.

Once commissioned, most of the soon-to-be new officers will undergo up to a year of officer training, then report to their respective duty stations in the United States or abroad.



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## Did You Know?

### *60th Anniversary Flashback:*

#### **SERVING DISABLED STUDENTS —**

In 1974, Handicapped Student Services began with a modest \$3,000 grant. Veterans comprised most of the first 40-50 enrollees. Part-time Director Paul Miller was hired and the program began to expand. Today, the Disabled Student Services program serves 800-900 students and Miller, who retired in 2014, observed that DSS was part of the "fabric of Cal State Fullerton's campus culture. The University embraced the concept of diversity and was always exploring opportunities to make people feel welcome to develop individual talent and ability."