



CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY
FULLERTON

60
YEARS

TITAN REPORT

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Campus Cheers on Class of 2018

Nearly 12,000 graduates and candidates for graduation were eligible to walk across the stage this May in celebration of their achievement in earning a bachelor's, master's or doctoral degree.

President Fram Virjee welcomed the crowd at the all-university ceremony on Friday evening, acknowledging members of the graduating class for their hard work.

"You worked incredibly hard to get here," he said. "More than half of you are the first in your family to graduate from college, but trust me, you will not be the last.

"As a first-generation college graduate myself, I can tell you that you not only changed your life with this degree, you changed the narrative of your family and their legacy and opened doors of opportunity to people who haven't even been born yet."

Keynote speaker Earl Lewis, former president of the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, now professor of history and African American and African studies at the University of Michigan was honored at the ceremony with an honorary doctor of humane letters. This is the 18th honorary degree that Cal State Fullerton has bestowed in its 60-year history.

"Graduates, your job — deploying the discipline of mind that comes with the pursuit of knowledge for the betterment not only of yourself and your family, but also the greater society — is just beginning," said Lewis.

ECONOMISTS SEE CONTINUED GROWTH FOR ECONOMIC FUTURE



this year, however, was a bit dourer, at least early on, as retail sales slumped for the third straight month in February, vehicle sales plateaued and construction slowed.

"There is lots of turbulence these days (in the stock market)," stressed Puri. January achieved a high water mark but it's been "jittery because of inflation, trade concerns and the loss in tech market valuation."

Cal State Fullerton economists Mira Farka and Anil Puri discussed the outlook for the national and local economies during the spring economic forecast.

"The economy is in the greatest shape it's been for a while," said Puri, director of the university's Woods Center for Economic Analysis and Forecasting.

In 2017, stock markets around the globe soared, inflation remained subdued and monetary policy continued to be accommodative across the world. The first quarter of



TITANS LIGHT UP BROADWAY

Recently, nine B.F.A. musical theatre seniors were finally in New York City for two 45-minute showcases at St. Luke's Theater on 46th Street — two opportunities to show their skills to agents, talent scouts and casting professionals.

Although official preparation doesn't begin until the start of their senior year, "this was the one thing we had all been working toward since our freshman year," says Kayla Contreras.

The B.F.A. Musical Theatre New York Showcase is a senior capstone project, one that often results in doors opening and curtains parting for Cal State Fullerton students.

Alumni on Broadway include Devon Hadsell — "Mean Girls," Tiffany Cole — "Escape to Margaritaville," Kellen Stancil — "The Lion King," Jesse Swimm — "School of Rock," Salisha Thomas — "Beautiful: The Carole King Musical," and Dashaun Young — "The Lion King."



SYMPOSIUM FOCUSES ON HOUSING SOLUTIONS FOR OC'S HOMELESS

Nearly 200 people gathered at Cal State Fullerton this spring, for the "Symposium on Homelessness in Orange County."

The three-hour symposium began with brief summaries from United Way staff members and Kelsey Brewer '16 (B.A. political science) of the Association of California Cities, Orange County, on the county's \$299 million annual tab to address homelessness. But the county could save about \$42 million per year if all of the county's chronically homeless were placed into permanent and supportive housing, added Brewer, the association's legislative affairs manager.

The county needs to build or find 2,700 units to house its homeless residents, she said. Divided among its 34 independent cities, the task could become more manageable if spread out — 120 units in Fullerton, for example. But funding and land remain issues. The county also needs a regional hub, a housing trust, to manage the public and private funds, she added.



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Did You Know?

Celebrating CSUF's 60th Anniversary

Cal State Fullerton has been home to sculptures of all sizes and shapes — from an ice cream cone and part of a fuel ship to a replica of Michelangelo's "David" in pieces — and includes works by faculty and alumni. One early piece, Claire Falkenstein's "Game Action," graces the entrance to Titan Gym. In 2001, the then 26-piece collection garnered an Art in Public Places Award from the Architecture Foundation of Orange County.