



HUD SECRETARY AND MSNBC ANCHOR TO ADDRESS GRADUATES

Julián Castro, left, secretary of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, and Richard Lui, right, an MSNBC anchor, will serve as Commencement speakers during this year's ceremonies.

"We are delighted to have such outstanding leaders and role models for our students as this year's keynote speakers," said CSUF President Mildred García. "I know they will provide great advice and inspiration to our new graduates."

Lui will be the Saturday, May 16 ceremony keynoter, and Castro will address graduates on Sunday, May 17.

GARCIA NAMED TO NATIONAL COMMISSION ON FINANCING HIGHER EDUCATION

Cal State Fullerton President Mildred García will serve on a nonpartisan National Commission on Financing 21st Century Higher Education, formed by the Miller Center at the University of Virginia.

She joins a panel of state leaders, college administrators and private-sector CEOs.

Increasing pressure on state budgets, along with changing student demographics and new academic models arising from advances in teaching and learning, create both opportunities and challenges for American higher education. However, without creative new funding policies that expand access to meaningful educational opportunities beyond high school, including increased access made possible by wise use of existing public funds and by partnerships that generate greater private investment, the nation could fall short of the educated population it needs.



ILLUSTRATING HIS PASSION FOR STORYTELLING

CSUF Art Professor Cliff Cramp was recently named a Corel Painter Master joining a cadre of worldwide artists who "have excelled in their craft and risen to the top," according to the 2015 Corel Painter Masters' website. Like the other Masters, Cramp has produced a Corel Painter tutorial for the paint software program.

Cramp coordinates the illustration program at Cal State Fullerton, where he teaches both traditional and digital media courses. And when he's not teaching, he finds himself threading the familiar with the fantastical in everything from paintings to book illustrations and short comics.

His extensive body of work also includes children's and narrative illustrations, as well as cover art for books and TV show and film collections – but as fan moments go, few can top getting handpicked to produce the cover art for "Star Wars: The Complete Saga" on Blu-ray.

FORECAST EXPLORES "FED POLICY AND THE OUTLOOK FOR GROWTH"

Cal State Fullerton economists Anil Puri and Mira Farka discussed the outlook for the national economy and Orange County at the Midyear Economic Forecast Conference, "The Visible Hand: Fed Policy and Outlook for Growth." Puri also serves as dean of the Mihaylo College of Business and Economics.

The midyear conference focused on the outlook for growth and expansion in the face of a number of recent developments: the beginning of interest rate hike cycle by the Federal Reserve ("the visible hand"), the slump in oil prices, the surge in dollar and the global slowdown.

CSUF PROFESSOR NAMED AMERICAN COUNCIL ON EDUCATION FELLOW

Stephan R. Walk, associate dean of Cal State Fullerton's College of Health and Human Development, is among 47 emerging U.S. college and university leaders selected for the 2015-16 class of the American Council on Education (ACE) Fellows Program.

The ACE Fellows Program is designed to strengthen higher education by identifying and preparing the next generation of leaders for senior positions in college and university administration.

TITANS CONVERGE WHERE LINCOLN LAST STOOD

April 14 marked the 150th anniversary of Lincoln's assassination at Ford's Theatre in Washington, D.C. The commemoration also meant the fruition of a yearlong effort by seven Titans to mark the death of our 16th president.

Teaming up as part of "Ford's 150: Remembering the Lincoln Assassination," Patrick Pearson '07 (M.F.A. theatre arts-directing), the theater's director of artistic programming; M.F.A. student Jeremy Lewis '12 (B.A. theatre arts-directing); Mark Ramont '78 (B.A., theatre arts-directing), associate professor of theatre and dance, who served in Pearson's current position from 2004 to 2011; and playwright Richard Hellesen '81 (B.A. theatre arts) focused not just on Lincoln's death but also on his life and legacy as a politician, father, husband and friend.

Other Titans involved included Rebecca Tucker '12 (B.F.A. theatre arts – musical theater), an understudy for the play "The Widow Lincoln," who also helped record an audio guide for the "Silent Witnesses" exhibit; senior Tim Alexander (B.F.A. theatre arts-acting), who interned at Ford's last year; and alumnus Ryan Jones, one of many who presented first-person accounts from those in the nation's capital on the day of the shooting in 1865.

The collaboration with so many Cal State Fullerton students and alumni, he adds, "speaks volumes of our theatre program. We have had seven alums or students who have contributed significantly to this project in a huge variety of roles ... all using skills we honed during our time in the theatre department."



Ford's Theatre production of "Freedom's Song: Abraham Lincoln and the Civil War," written by alumni Richard Hellesen and Mark Ramont, associate professor of theatre and dance.



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Did You Know?



- Almost 10,000 people attended the University's annual "Welcome to CSU Fullerton Day" event in April. The event is designed to introduce first-time freshmen and their family members and friends to the campus.
- More than 2,500 developmentally disabled special athletes will celebrate their achievements during the annual CSUF Special Games — Kathleen E. Faley Memorial.
- On August 1, 2013, Cal State Fullerton became the first in the 23-campus CSU system to be completely smoke-free. Smoking of tobacco products (including e-cigarettes) is prohibited on all CSUF property.