

TITAN REPORT



CSUF JUMPS TO TOP 5 IN THE NATION FOR SOCIAL MOBILITY AND VALUE

High graduation rates and strong social mobility, low-cost tuition, and low debt for students propelled Cal State Fullerton to its No. 5 ranking for the 2021 “Best Bang for the Buck” in the Western United States, according to Washington Monthly. CSUF’s ranking is up from No. 16 on the magazine’s 2020 list.

Washington Monthly announced Tuesday that it reviewed data from 1,466 campuses in 50 states and ranked the four-year institutions by isolating their social mobility metrics and asking “what the colleges can do for the country” by helping non-wealthy students attain “marketable degrees at affordable prices.”

[BIT.LY/CSUF-TOP-5-SOCIAL-MOBILITY](https://bit.ly/csuf-top-5-social-mobility)

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From Ocean to Table

Grad Student Studies Impact of Microplastics on Sardines

In a basement laboratory, Cal State Fullerton biology graduate student Chelsea Bowers dissects Pacific sardines and studies how microplastic contamination may be affecting the sardines, an essential part of the oceanic food chain and a commercial food fish that ultimately leads to our dinner tables.

Her hope is that this research, which aims to quantify ingested microplastics — the amount, size and type — found in the sardines’ stomachs and muscle tissues, will help other scientists studying a growing and international microplastics problem.

[BIT.LY/CSUF-MICROPLASTICS-2021](https://bit.ly/csuf-microplastics-2021)

AFRICAN AMERICAN STUDIES CHAIR NAMED ORANGE COUNTY’S FIRST POET LAUREATE

Poetry is central to justice and transformation, says Natalie J. Graham, chair and associate professor of African American studies at Cal State Fullerton. It can be a vehicle for connecting and reimagining “who we are and what we consider to be fixed,” she says.

Graham has championed justice and connection in her writing and in her community, both through her work as an award-winning author and performer and in her role as director of The Institute of Black Intellectual Innovation at CSUF.

[BIT.LY/CSUF-GRAHAM-POET-LAUREATE](https://bit.ly/csuf-graham-poet-laureate)

Nearly \$1.8 Million Grant Awarded to Train Diverse Students in Alzheimer's, Aging Research

In the coming decades, the United States will face a critical turning point — a rapidly growing aging population, aged 65 years and older, will double in size from 40 million to nearly 80 million by the year 2040.

A team led by Archana McEligot, Cal State Fullerton professor of public health, has been awarded a five-year grant totaling \$1,789,638 from the National Institutes of Health to train diverse students in aging-related research — specifically the aging brain and Alzheimer's disease.

BIT.LY/CSUF-GRANT-ALZHEIMER'S-RESEARCH



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



Student Trustee to Advocate for Marginalized Communities

Gov. Gavin Newsom recently appointed public administration graduate student Maria G. Linares '19 (B.A. sociology) as one of two student trustees on the California State University Board of Trustees.

Known as the most prestigious leadership position a student can gain in the CSU system, student trustees have the opportunity to shape policies that impact students on all 23 campuses. Tustin resident Linares will serve a two-year term starting in August.

BIT.LY/CSUF-STUDENT-TRUSTEE-2021