

TITAN REPORT



OPERA STORY TELLING

For decades, Cal State Fullerton has maintained a reputation for being a school that turns out opera stars. Deborah Voigt, Rodney Gilfrey, Jubilant Sykes, James 'Marty' Schaefer, Charles Castronovo, Omar Crook and Christopher Job are a few of the performers who have graced the university's stage over the years.

This fall, Kerry Jennings joined the School of Music's faculty as an associate professor of opera studies after a career as a concert soloist and award-winning stage director.

"My main goal is to give the students an educational, rewarding and varied experience that prepares them for today's musical landscape," said Jennings. "We can't and shouldn't throw out the standards with the bath water, but we also have to understand what is being done now and look toward the future. As often as I am able, I want the students to experience new works, which is why our double bill next April is really a perfect pairing. Not only do they get to experience a tried and true opera in 'Gianni Schicchi,' which contains one of the most recognizable arias in all of opera ("O mio babbino caro"), but they also have the opportunity to learn a new opera and work on it with the composer. Our production of 'Buoso's Ghost' by Michael Ching will be the California premiere of that work and it is those kinds of opportunities that I want students to have."

[BIT.LY/CSUF-STORY-THROUGH-OPERA](https://bit.ly/csuf-story-through-opera)



Five Million to CSUF for Community College Students to Explore STEM

Cal State Fullerton has received a \$5 million grant from the U.S. Department of Education to collaborate with nine local community colleges to support STEM transfer students. The funding will allow Project RAISER (Regional Alliance in STEM Education Refined), to continue operation of Project RAISE, a STEM transfer support program to conduct research at CSUF and ease the transfer process. Project RAISER will provide internship and research preparation programs and support peer advisors for STEM transfer students.

Working in collaboration with nine community college partners, the CSUF College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics, and the College of Engineering and Computer Science, this grant will ensure that students' learning opportunities align with skills necessary to meet workplace needs. The grant is under the direction of principal investigator Megan Drangstveit, who directed the Project RAISE grant, and co-principal investigator and Associate Dean of the College of Engineering and Computer Science Sang June Oh.

[BIT.LY/CSUF-STEM-TRANSFER-STUDENTS](https://bit.ly/csuf-stem-transfer-students)

#TITANS GIVE DAY

Save the date - March 9 - as #TitansGive day of giving returns! Last year, \$463,333 from 1405 donors was raised to fund and establish scholarships, support student programs and provide high-impact learning experiences. From midnight to midnight on Tuesday, March 9, philanthropic support for CSUF will be encouraged with exciting matching gifts, challenges and contests. Participate in this online giving event and help be the difference for Titans! Make a gift on March 9 and promote #TitansGive to your network for further impact. Questions? Visit titansgive.fullerton.edu

Philosophy Student and Aspiring Lawmaker Empowered by Panetta Internship in D.C.

Zachary Zirzow, a Cal State Fullerton senior majoring in philosophy and minoring in political science was one of 26 California students to complete a Washington, D.C. internship during the fall semester as a Panetta scholar.

The Panetta Institute for Public Policy, founded in 1997 by former Secretary of Defense Leon Panetta and his wife, Sylvia, provides study opportunities in government, politics and public policy. Its Congressional Internship Program selects participants from the California State University system, Dominican University of California, Saint Mary's College of California and Santa Clara University to learn the legislative process firsthand while interning for the U.S. House of Representatives.

The president of each institution nominates one Panetta scholar per year to the annual program, which begins each August with a two-week orientation at the Panetta Institute in Cal State Monterey Bay followed by an 11-week internship in Washington, D.C.

"This opportunity to have a fully funded experience in D.C. for three months is truly unique," said Zirzow.

BIT.LY/CSUF-PANETTA-LAWMAKER



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TITAN noun | tī-tʰn

one who stands out for **greatness of achievement**



Communication Expert Studies the Nature of Accent Bias

Whether they want to admit it or not — everyone has an accent, and most people have accent bias, says Rahul Chakraborty. The acting chair and associate professor of communication sciences and disorders at Cal State Fullerton said humans have a strong tendency to believe their own accent is superior to others' and make assumptions about those with accents different from their own.

Accent bias can have numerous consequences, including reduced job prospects, loss of opportunities and prejudiced impressions related to education, trustworthiness, body shape and demeanor.

Chakraborty argues that cultural sensitivity training toward nonnative accents is needed to address this deep-seated human bias.

"At CSUF communication sciences and disorders, we have infused diversity and multicultural issues in almost all our courses," he said. "Extensive exposure to different accent types and open conversation about cultural variation is central to our program. As a department, we are extremely vocal in protesting against any form of bias."

BIT.LY/CSUF-ACCENT-BIAS