LATINX FOCUSED PROGRAMS SHAPE COMMUNICATION STUDENTS INTO WINNING PRODUCERS

When Romyna Camacho and Abbey Fernandez came to Cal State Fullerton to pursue communications, they had no idea that prestigious national broadcasting awards were in their future. As first-generation students at CSUF, Camacho and Fernandez, both ’18 (B.A. communications-journalism), were eager to get involved in such on-campus organizations as “Al Día,” CSUF’s student-produced Spanish-language newscast, and Latino Journalists of CSUF, a student chapter of the National Association of Hispanic Journalists.

They also discovered the Latino Communications Institute, a work development program in the College of Communications that prepares Latinx students — many of whom are first-generation — for careers in news media. Both programs provided hands-on experience that helped propel them into their current careers at Telemundo. Fernandez is the recipient of an Edward R. Murrow Award for Excellence in Innovation. Three years after graduating, Camacho has already garnered three news Emmy Awards as a content producer.

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American Math Society Awards CSUF Math Department for Mentoring and Outreach

The American Math Society has recognized the Department of Mathematics at Cal State Fullerton as the recipient of the 2022 Award for “Mathematics Programs That Make A Difference.” The CSUF department was selected based on “the department’s excellent record of mentoring and graduating students from underrepresented groups.”

“The early leaders of our department believed that our faculty and our students could excel through such activities as undergraduate research (long before it became the norm) and mathematics competitions,” said Alfonso Agnew, chair and professor of mathematics. “Throughout the years, a culture of excellence evolved, bringing the highest levels of mathematics achievement and opportunity to our students, a majority of whom are underrepresented and first-generation. I couldn’t be prouder of this department nor more grateful to the vision of past leaders.”

Of the more than 650 students who completed a degree in mathematics at CSUF over the past decade, about a third represented underserved communities, almost half were women, and about half were first-generation students. More than 50% were eligible to receive Pell grants.

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CHECK OUT THE FALL/WINTER 2021 ISSUE OF TITAN MAGAZINE AT TITANMAG.FULLERTON.EDU.

Read inspiring stories of an alumnus who landed a dream job with Marvel Themed Entertainment, a team of researchers fighting wildfires before they start and Titans who achieved historic gold medal wins at the Tokyo Olympics.
City Management Fellowship Program Primes Graduate Students to be City Leaders

To thrive in the field of city management, budding professionals need hands-on experience and a supportive, knowledgeable mentor. That is precisely what four Cal State Fullerton graduate students are receiving in the City Management Fellowship Program.

Now in its 10th year, the program is a partnership between CSUF’s Master of Public Administration Program and the Orange County City Managers Association.

The CMFP pairs exceptional M.P.A. students with Orange County mentors, enabling students to gain practical experience by working directly with city leaders. City managers meet with fellows throughout the academic year, fostering opportunities to attend city council meetings, network within the community, work on specific initiatives and participate in city management workshops.

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Bank of America Grant Supports Women in Computer Science, Engineering

Cal State Fullerton’s Women in Computer Science and Engineering (WiCSE) program recently received a pivotal Bank of America grant of $325,000. The bank’s grant helps the program establish a half-million-dollar endowment that ensures funding in perpetuity, expands the program from two to four years, and triples the number of students served.

"The goal of WiCSE is to diversify the pathways of female graduates entering careers in technology fields," said Beth Harnick Shapiro, adjunct faculty member who runs WiCSE. "Our goal is to support female students so they are empowered to reach their full potential and achieve academic success while expanding a network of women alumni."

"Bank of America’s philanthropic priorities are initiatives that advance racial and gender equality as well as economic opportunity," said Allan Staff, president, Bank of America Orange County. "This investment will help students from disadvantaged backgrounds attain college degrees that lead to high wage careers in our County’s growing sectors, including engineering and computer science. It’s a true win-win opportunity to create lasting positive results."

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