

TITAN REPORT



Cal State Fullerton Commencement: Celebrating the Class of 2022

It was a day to celebrate as about 12,000 Cal State Fullerton Titans were invited to take that long-awaited, hard-earned walk across the commencement stage. Cal State Fullerton's Class of 2022 demonstrated that they have what it takes to successfully navigate work, school, family obligations, extracurricular activities and a pandemic to achieve the ultimate goal: a college degree.

In addition to the graduates, about 100,000 family members, friends, faculty and staff were on campus to cheer and support the new grads during the four days of commencement ceremonies, May 23- 26.

Two honorary doctorates were also presented this year: one to Gaddi Vasquez who most recently served as senior vice president of government affairs for Edison International and Southern California Edison, and the other to Jeffrey Van Harte, chairman and chief investment officer who founded Jackson Square Partners in 2014.

[BIT.LY/CSUF-COMMENCEMENT-2022-BRIEF](https://bit.ly/CSUF-COMMENCEMENT-2022-BRIEF)



Governor's May Revise Includes \$67.5 Million for Cal State Fullerton's Engineering and Computer Science Innovation Hub

Last month, it was announced that the Governor's May Revise includes \$67.5 million from the state of California to be applied toward construction of the university's Engineering and Computer Science Innovation Hub. This funding will allow the hub to expand campus infrastructure to support the growing need for a highly-skilled, STEM-trained workforce for all industries.

This innovation hub has the potential to be a central part of Orange County's growth, radiating inward and outward, to create talent pipelines through education, hands-on learning, and state of the art spaces that support a community of innovators.

"This funding is an important first step to having spaces that maximize student opportunity and potential," said Susan Barua, dean of the College of Engineering and Computer Science. "What's most inspiring to me is how this will change the narrative for future graduates. The Innovation Hub, and the work that will take place in the structure will change their lives for the better."

The May revise budget still needs legislative approval this summer. Additional funds will be sought to fully fund this project. A combination of additional state support, with campus support and philanthropy will play a role in construction of the ECS Innovation Hub.

"This project is a game changer not just for our campus, but for Orange County and the Southern California region," said President Fram Virjee. "This initial investment from the state is a positive step towards a collective effort to transform engineering and computer science education and innovation in Orange County — at the K-12, university, and industry levels — to attract, retain, and graduate the technology leaders of tomorrow."

[BIT.LY/CSUF-ECS-INNOVATION-HUB-GRANT-202](https://bit.ly/CSUF-ECS-INNOVATION-HUB-GRANT-202)

Nearly \$1 Million FDA Grant Aims to Increase Diversity in COVID-19 Clinical Trials

Since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, several obstacles have hindered underrepresented groups from participating in clinical trials, including lack of financial resources, health care access, transportation issues, and mistrust of the medical and research community.

Joshua Yang, a Cal State Fullerton professor of public health specializing in tobacco control research, is using his decades of expertise in understanding the behaviors of underrepresented populations to increase the racial and ethnic diversity of young adults in COVID-19 clinical trials.

Yang recently received a \$968,302 grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Food and Drug Administration for his project, "Co-Creation of Digital Tools to Enhance Young Adult Minority Participation in COVID-19 Trials."

[BIT.LY/CSUF-FDA-GRANT-COVID-19-TRIALS](https://bit.ly/CSUF-FDA-GRANT-COVID-19-TRIALS)



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TITAN noun | ti-tən
one who stands out for **greatness of achievement**

University Helps Titan Couple Find Their Way to Dream Careers

Brittany DiMarco starts work every day in the backseat of an EC-135 helicopter with a pilot and a medic by her side. Her destinations for the day are unknown. Her team could land in a field of cows or the roof of a trauma center, and all that matters is that she's ready to help. From the Air Force to CSUF nursing, Brittany's journey toward becoming a flight nurse started with community and faculty support.

Brittany's enthusiasm for helping people is equally matched by that of her husband (and fellow Titan), Nick DiMarco, who champions a growth mindset by being the positive influence that people need to achieve their personal fitness goals.

"The faculty at Cal State Fullerton are incredible. Multiple professors showed genuine interest in my goals and dreams," said Nick.

The Air Force veterans graduated in May and with the help of CSUF, prepared to live out their dreams.

[BIT.LY/CSUF-TITAN-COUPLE-2022](https://bit.ly/CSUF-TITAN-COUPLE-2022)

