

TITAN REPORT



Disney Aspire Supports Cast Members Seeking CSUF Degrees

Cal State Fullerton has joined the network of Disney Aspire, The Walt Disney Co.'s education investment and career development program that offers 100% tuition paid upfront for hourly employees.

More than 29,500 hourly employees are eligible to participate in Disney Aspire in the state of California, more than 3,400 of whom are already enrolled in the program. Disney employees will have access to a variety of in-person and online courses at CSUF and Fullerton College, located about seven miles from Disneyland Resort in Anaheim. In addition to covering tuition, the program also reimburses employees for applicable books and fees.

"We're proud to be a neighbor to Disneyland Resort and excited to embark on this new adventure together," said CSUF President Fram Virjee. "This is just the first step in partnering together to help build a better tomorrow for Orange County and our community."

[BIT.LY/CSUF-DISNEY-ASPIRE-2022](https://bit.ly/csuf-disney-aspire-2022)



Geologists Investigate Droughts and Wildfires in Southern California

To better understand the impacts of drought and wildfire activity in an urban landscape, Cal State Fullerton geology researchers are developing the first-ever study to reconstruct the fire history for Chino Hills State Park.

With California experiencing prolonged dry conditions for the third consecutive year, the parched, hot and windy weather, combined with dried out and flammable vegetation, increases the probability of large-scale wildfires, said paleoclimatologist Matthew E. Kirby.

The Chino Hills park — set in an urban environment where people live next to open, dry and flammable undeveloped areas — has experienced two major fires in recent times: the Blue Ridge Fire in 2020 and the Freeway Complex Fire in 2008. The park and surrounding area has over 100 years of fire history.

"The area faces an unknown future as climate changes and droughts continue," said Kirby, professor of geological sciences. "Our study will create a baseline understanding. For us to understand wildfires, the key is to understand their past, which will help us understand what may happen in the future."

Due to extreme heat and lack of snow, the state is currently in its second extreme drought in 10 years, a symptom of a warming climate. Currently, nearly 60% of the state is in extreme drought, according to the U.S. Drought Monitor.

[BIT.LY/CSUF-DROUGHT-KIRBY-2022](https://bit.ly/csuf-drought-kirby-2022)

'JoJo Goes' to Cal State Fullerton

Singer, dancer and media sensation JoJo Siwa became a Titan for a day, dancing her way through the Cal State Fullerton campus and exploring different majors. Watch "JoJo Goes" online at bit.ly/csuf-jojo-siwa-jojogoes.



University Welcomes Students Back to School

About 40,000 students returned to Cal State Fullerton in late August to begin the 2022-23 academic year. This year, about 74% of classes will be held in person, 20% of classes will be fully online and 6% will be hybrid.

The campus has undergone significant changes over the past year, including a new six-story housing building that will accommodate 600 students and a new Olympic-sized, 50-meter pool. Other completed projects were the renovation of the second floor of McCarthy Hall, resurfacing tennis courts, repairs to the Titan Track, golf area renovation, new seats in the College of the Arts Little Theatre, additional outdoor seating and laptop charging stations.

"I am very excited to welcome our students back as we begin the 2022-23 academic year," said President Fram Virjee. "We look forward to more opportunities for students, faculty and staff to participate in civic engagement, academic achievement, and programs designed to empower and prepare our amazing students for their bright future."

[BIT.LY/CSUF-BACK-TO-SCHOOL-FALL-2022](https://bit.ly/csuf-back-to-school-fall-2022)



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TITAN noun | ti-t'n
one who stands out for **greatness of achievement**



Mapping Orange County's Black-Owned Businesses

A Cal State Fullerton digital mapping project, #Networked OC, is the first of its kind to document and showcase past, present, and future Black-owned businesses and community organizations in Orange County.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, Orange County's Black population makes up about 2% of the county's 3 million total population.

Jamila Moore Pewu, assistant professor of history, and her team of researchers are working with local museums and nonprofits to record Black communities and businesses that have not just prospered in Orange County's history but also serve present and future communities.

"When documenting Black businesses, we aren't just talking about the businesses themselves, we're also talking about generational wealth and equity," explained Moore Pewu. "It's important for people to understand that a digital space doesn't erase our divides, it actually pronounces them even more."

[BIT.LY/CSUF-DIGITAL-HISTORY-BLACK-OWNED-BUSINESSES](https://bit.ly/csuf-digital-history-black-owned-businesses)