

# TITAN REPORT



## CSUF Leads in Social, Economic Mobility

Cal State Fullerton this year earned national recognition for its affordability and access for students from diverse backgrounds. U.S. News & World Report ranked CSUF No. 7 among “Top Performers on Social Mobility” in the nation for 2022-23.

In addition, the university ranked in the top 30, or top 1%, of Money’s 2022 list of best colleges in America by value. The list looked at more than 2,400 four-year colleges with sufficient data and above-average graduation rates, considering quality and affordability while admitting at least 20% of applicants.

Also in 2022, the public policy nonprofit Third Way ranked CSUF as a top 25 school in the nation for economic mobility.

[BIT.LY/CSUF-SOCIAL-MOBILITY-MONEY-MAG](https://bit.ly/csuf-social-mobility-money-mag)

Read the latest issue of Titan magazine at [titanmag.fullerton.edu](https://titanmag.fullerton.edu).

The fall/winter 2022 issue features inspiring stories of three alumni who work behind the scenes of the world-famous Cirque du Soleil.



## Poncho Sanchez Brings ‘Spirit of the Drum’ to Campus

Grammy Award-winning musician Poncho Sanchez and his Latin jazz band headlined an October concert at Cal State Fullerton, raising more than \$300,000 for programs and opportunities benefiting CSUF Latinx students. The Celebración de Cal State Fullerton: ¡Somos Titans! (We are Titans) event was co-chaired by Vikki Vargas ’81 (B.A. communications), NBC4 Orange County bureau chief, and Gaddi Vasquez, retired U.S. ambassador to the United Nations in Rome who received an honorary doctorate from CSUF in 2021.

A well-known conguero (a musician who plays the conga drums), Sanchez has delighted audiences for more than three decades with his mix of Latin jazz, soul music, melodies and rhythms from a variety of Latin and South American sources. His musical director and trombone player, Francisco Torres, is a faculty member at CSUF, and his percussionist, Giancarlo Anderson, is pursuing his master’s degree in music at the university.

Sanchez also conducted a master class on campus, sharing with students the secret to finding “the spirit of the drum.” The purpose of master classes, hosted by the College of the Arts, is to engage students with professional artists, teach them about diverse musical styles and help them develop skills to reach their career goals.

[BIT.LY/CSUF-PONCHO-SANCHEZ-EVENT-2022](https://bit.ly/csuf-poncho-sanchez-event-2022)





## CAPS Wellness Room to Support Student Mental Health

Recognizing the important link between mental health and student success, Cal State Fullerton recently launched the Counseling and Psychological Services Wellness Room. Located on the third floor of Titan Hall, the wellness room features massage chairs, napping pods, a mindfulness/art area, a yoga room and comfortable seating.

“The success of students at four-year universities is not just dependent on their study habits or extracurricular activities — it’s dependent on their overall functioning and well-being as people,” said CSUF President Fram Virjee.

Born from the voices of students like Asha Bhattacharya '21 (B.A. business administration-marketing), who advocated for increased mental health resources for students, the wellness room empowers students to live a healthy and balanced lifestyle while pursuing academic excellence.

[BIT.LY/CSUF-CAPS-WELLNESS-ROOM](https://bit.ly/csuf-caps-wellness-room)



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

## A New Tool to Fight Global Infectious Diseases

To assist in the global fight against infectious diseases, Cal State Fullerton computational epidemiologist Sampson Akwafuo is researching computational epidemiology, a new and rapidly growing field that develops computational tools for modeling, simulating, predicting and visualizing the spread of diseases in the field of epidemiology.

“The demand for computational epidemiologists is huge,” said Akwafuo, assistant professor of computer science. He and his students are working on developing data-driven algorithms and simulation tools for studying disease spread patterns of Lassa fever. While recent Lassa fever outbreaks have occurred mostly in West Africa, some cases and deaths also have been reported in the United States, according to the CDC. Gavi, the global vaccine coalition, has hinted that Lassa fever might be the next pandemic, Akwafuo noted.

[BIT.LY/CSUF-EPIDEMIOLOGY-INFECTIOUS-DISEASE-RESEARCH](https://bit.ly/csuf-epidemiology-infectious-disease-research)

