Training Social Workers for Post-Pandemic Needs

The pressures of post-pandemic living, economic uncertainty and systemic violence have exacerbated mental and behavioral health needs. Faced with a growing demand for support, Cal State Fullerton’s Department of Social Work was awarded nearly $10 million in grants to strengthen the behavioral health care workforce in Southern California.

A $4.75 million grant from the California Department of Health Care Access and Information will support the Master of Social Work Expansion Project, and a $5 million grant from CalOptima Health will establish the Orange County Behavioral Health MSW Stipend Program.

Both grants aim to increase the number of social workers in Orange County by providing students with additional financial support and training in culturally competent care for underserved populations. Over the next three years, 225 stipends will be available for social work students.

Additionally, the grants will support enhanced curriculum such as the development of a certificate program for working with Latinx communities, a credential program to allow students to work in California public schools, and specialized training in digital health literacy and telehealth.

“After the COVID-19 pandemic, it was clear that ethnic minority groups bore the majority of the stress and trauma,” said Mikyong Kim-Goh, chair and professor of social work. “Our social worker training looks at these issues from a systemic perspective to find ways to help people heal.”

BIT.LY/CSUF-SOCIAL-WORKERS-10-MILLION-GRANT

Outstanding Senior Accepted to 17 Medical Schools

Ramadhan Ahmed, a Cal State Fullerton Class of 2023 biological science major, scored in the 97th percentile on the MCAT and was accepted to 17 medical schools. In August, he will begin his first year at The Johns Hopkins School of Medicine.

Ahmed, who was named the Alumni Association’s Outstanding Senior, is the first in his family to earn both high school and college degrees. In seventh grade, he participated in CSUF’s GEAR UP. The program introduces junior high and high school students from underserved communities to higher education.

“When it was time to choose a college, the choice was clear,” he said. “I believed that the people at Cal State Fullerton would provide a nurturing environment that would help me succeed.”

BIT.LY/CSUF-ALUMNI-SENIOR-RAMADHAN
Theatre ProfessorStars in ‘The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel’

Josh Grisetti recently found himself among a swirl of 1960s dapper outfits on the New York City set of “The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel.” In the Amazon Prime show’s final season, the Cal State Fullerton professor of theatre and dance plays a comedy writer named Ralph. From audition to production, Grisetti brought every lesson back to the classroom, teaching students about the callback process, how to successfully audition via Zoom and how to navigate sets as a supporting actor.

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