By Lou Ponsi, contributing writer

Delivering remarks during her first convocation since becoming president of Cal State Fullerton, Sylvia Alva lauded the university’s accomplishments over the past year, while outlining goals for the new academic year.

Two priorities are to continue to build on CSUF’s standing as a leader in diversity, equity and inclusion, and to increase the number of underrepresented students and to fine-tune methods to provide “a welcoming and inclusive university experience,” the president said.

Speaking in front of a packed Meng Concert Hall on Sept. 14, with hundreds more watching via livestream, Alva drew on her own experiences as a child of Mexican immigrants and a product of the CSU system, marveling in many ways the demographic makeup of a significant portion of current CSUF students.

Today feels very special, like a homecoming beyond my imagination,” Alva said. “It is a privilege, and quite frankly, a bit surreal, to have the honor of serving as your president. This is a beautiful and fulfilling full-circle moment that reaffirms why the CSU is the greatest driver of social mobility in California and the nation.”

In pointing out accomplishments, the president noted that CSUF met near-by 11,000 degrees in May.

“That is more than the total head count of all CSUs,” Alva said. This year, the university welcomed an incoming class of 4,381 first-time freshmen, 4,100 transfer students and more than 1,400 graduate students, making it the largest incoming class in Titan history, Alva said.

By graduating 11,000 and enrolling 12,100, Alva noted that enrollment is up.

“Today feels very special, like a homecoming,” Alva said.

We must recommit ourselves to access the opportunity to achieve their full potential and goal of earning a degree from this impressive university,” Alva said. “To do that, we must center equity in everything we do. We must continue to build on our data and technology infrastructure to guide and support every student on their journey toward success.”

Upgrades to infrastructure and academic programs support her vision.”

NEW PRESIDENT PLANS TO BUILD ON STUDENT SUCCESS, INCLUSIVITY

Cal State Fullerton associate professor of psychology Yuko Okado has been named a 2023 National Science Foundation CAREER Award recipient. The $979,212 grant award will fund Okado’s five-year project “Improving Persistence of Underrepresented Students in Psychological Science Using an AI-Based, Personalized Career Exploration Platform.”

Okado’s project, which will run from September 2023 to August 2028, utilizes artificial intelligence technology to create CareerFair.ai, a platform that allows CSUF students to engage with virtual-agent mentors that provide guidance on STEM career paths.

“I thought, why don’t we create a project based on that use of AI to create a career fair-style portal for students free of charge,” Okado said. “It would be something they can access 24/7 so they don’t have to worry about making appointments or having the resources to travel to a mentor.”

The virtual agent-mentors are similar to chatbots, but they are real-life mentors with CSU-specific, prerecorded video content that provides a more personal touch.

"I thought, why don’t we create a project based on that use of AI to create a career fair-style portal for students free of charge," Okado said. "It would be something they can access 24/7 so they don’t have to worry about making appointments or having the resources to travel to a mentor."
When educator Gloria Thomas was a middle school student, she recalled how her teacher supported her in and out of the classroom, pushed her to go above and beyond, and always believed in her.

“She was a safe space for me,” Thomas said. “She showed me how amazing relationships with many of my teachers and school leadership. My dream has always been to do the same and provide an inclusive education for my students.”

As a Cal State Fullerton education graduate student, Thomas is now gaining a better understanding of crafting inviting, diverse classrooms for all students, including diverse students learning English and those with disabilities.

She is among four students cited as fellow students in the College of Education’s “Inspiring and Engaging Children and Families Through Innovative Practices” project, led by Rosalinda Larios, associate professor of special education.

“The inclusive classroom is a safe space to be,” Thomas said, working towards warmer, more supportive school leadership. “It’s a learning environment where students have a sense of belonging and receive support academically, socially and emotionally.”

The university received a $113,158 grant for the project from the Global His- panics-Serving Institution Innovation (Hi-Innovation) at Cal State Northridge. The funding is part of the first round of Cali- fornia State University Hispanic-Serving Institutions Community Grants.

The partnership between the CSU and California-based Apple aims to increase access and success for Hispanic and Latinx students and other his- torically underserved students with skills and for high-demand careers in science, tech- nology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) fields.

For the project, the faculty and stu- dent team plans to launch the College of Education’s Leadership Collaborative Charter (CLLC) to provide inclusive education to serve as coordinator of opportunities within the field of educa- tion, including becoming early childhood special education teachers, education specialists, administrators and research- ers.

The inclusive collective and analy- sis data from the school’s families, students and staff, which helps prepare them for their education careers. In the future, CLLC teacher candidates will ob- serve culturally responsive practices by the school teachers and participate in the planning and implementation of special education services.

The fellowship program is embarking on a range of opportunities within the field of educa- tion, including becoming early childhood special education teachers, education specialists, administrators and research- ers.

The inclusive fellows collect and ana- lyze data from the school’s families, students and staff, which helps prepare them for their education careers. In the future, CLLC teacher candidates will ob- serve culturally responsive practices by the school teachers and participate in the planning and implementation of special education services.

CLLC is the only fully inclusive school in Orange County and has about 200 students in traditional kindergarten through sixth grade. Larios said. Nearly one-third of the students speak another language at home while learning English, and nearly 12% receive special education services.

President

This fall, CSUF will launch a new $25 million Titan Gateway Bridge, with occupancy expected in July 2026.

Construction of the Titans Gate- way Bridge is scheduled to be underway by the fall 2024. The design team is creating a new, comprehensive fundraising campaign in CSUH history.

The original goal for the “3 T brings a Titan” campaign was $27.5 million, but the campaign far exceeded its target for the university, based on a realistic and sustainable financial model and we decide what is the right enroll- ment landscape will also be neces- sary in the wake of a shifting demographic landscape, the state of high school gradu- ating classes to the spike in California births and enrollment management and reduces the student journey.”

"All students, regardless ofability, race, gender or ethnicity are taught in the same classroom through- out the school day. Teachers meet the stu- dents where they are academically and see their value as individuals and their unique learning needs. The project will show that inclusion is pos- sible and beneficial for all students.”

Others spearheading the project are Ramin Abkoor, a professor of educational leadership, and alumna, Fontana High School graduate and Titan’s passion is paving the way for women in sports:

Kelsie Whitmore is a woman to play in a Major League Baseball partner league.

Learn more about how one Titan’s passion is paving the way for women in sports:

CSUF ALUMNA CHANGING THE GAME

Many professional baseball players launched their careers at Cal State Fullerton.

Kelsie Whitmore is no exception.

The former Titan softball standout made history when she became the first woman to play in a Major League Baseball partner league.

Cheri Glasson, director of Communications, CSUF News Media Services

Learn more about how one Titan’s passion is paving the way for women in sports:

CSUH SECTION STAFF

Managing Editor: Jerielle Karvanska

Projects Editor: Dilleta Clark

Creative Director: Tom Holigan

Senior Graphic Designer: Amy Dabirian

Copy Editor: Paul Deportis

Director of Communications: Carrie Wilson

Have a story idea or comment for the section?

Contact Carie Wilson at eawong@csuf.org or 714-789-2061

The Cal State Fullerton community section is produced by The Orange County Register for the benefit of its subscribers. While the university and the section’s advertising sponsors all editorial decisions are independent of the university’s control.

Published on select Thursdays by The Orange County Register

2100 Tewes Centre Place

Costa Mesa, CA 92626

ocregister.com/cal-state-fullerton
A partnership between the CSUF Police Department and Psychological Services department will likelihood in the development of a mobile app to call-in a mental health crisis.

Evan G. Frisbee, chief of police, and Michael Lemm, the assistant chief of police, are leading an effort to incorporate police with public safety professionals to create a multilayered response to mental health calls.

Creating a mobile crisis team for mental health-related services to CSUF students, CAPS and the Police Department research mobile crisis teams at other universities to determine best practices for its own initiative. The Chief of Police Frisbee said that campus police were first hired the same the first in the Cal State University system for mental health professionals responding to mental health emergencies in place of campus police.

At CSUF, CAPS and the Police Department research mobile crisis teams at other universities to determine best practices for its own initiative. The Chief of Police Frisbee said that campus police were first hired the same the first in the Cal State University system for mental health professionals responding to mental health emergencies in place of campus police.

At CSUF, CAPS and the Police Department research mobile crisis teams at other universities to determine best practices for its own initiative. The Chief of Police Frisbee said that campus police were first hired the same the first in the Cal State University system for mental health professionals responding to mental health emergencies in place of campus police.

One thing that we really embrace at CSUF is research, said. "We bought input from numerous universities, whether they want to learn what went well for them and what they would change. One thing that we have pledged to do with the creation of this new team is to track and evaluate our program to ensure we are helping in the most meaningful way."
Grant is a pipeline for underrepresented data science students

Cal State Fullerton has been awarded a nearly $4 million grant to launch CareerLab, a program designed to help students who might not otherwise have access to opportunities.

The Learning Lab's Grand Challenge Challenge: Aligned Faculty and Industry Science grant opportunity selected the univer-
sity’s Project PIPE-LINE (Psychology Pathways) as a Pathway Laboratory (PathLab) for funding.

By creating this project, Learning Lab hopes to create pathways among foun-
tions of higher education institutions in Southern California, elevate data science educational infrastructure and build the state a leader in data science in underserved communities.

Cal State Fullerton mathematics and computer science faculty are behind Project PIPE-LINE and partnering with UC Irvine, Western University and Cal Poly-
Hondo College.

The grant project aims to attract historically underrepresented students into STEM majors, including women from underrepresented communities, residents and transfer students.

Plans include offering new data science courses, create virtual-agent mentors to self-report and edit their experience and sunset, mentors will be recruited to help connect these students to STEM careers. The grant project also includes faculty and students from CSUF and the University of California, Los Angeles. The project will also seek to recruit students from underrepresented communities, such as those on campus and academic units.

Cal State Fullerton has been awarded a nearly $4 million grant to launch CareerLab, a program designed to help students who might not otherwise have access to opportunities.

The Learning Lab’s Grand Challenge Challenge: Aligned Faculty and Industry Science grant opportunity selected the univer-
sity’s Project PIPE-LINE (Psychology Pathways) as a Pathway Laboratory (PathLab) for funding.

By creating this project, Learning Lab hopes to create pathways among foun-
tions of higher education institutions in Southern California, elevate data science educational infrastructure and build the state a leader in data science in underserved communities.

Cal State Fullerton mathematics and computer science faculty are behind Project PIPE-LINE and partnering with UC Irvine, Western University and Cal Poly-
Hondo College.

The grant project aims to attract historically underrepresented students into STEM majors, including women from underrepresented communities, residents and transfer students.

Plans include offering new data science courses, create virtual-agent mentors to self-report and edit their experience and sunset, mentors will be recruited to help connect these students to STEM careers. The grant project also includes faculty and students from CSUF and the University of California, Los Angeles. The project will also seek to recruit students from underrepresented communities, such as those on campus and academic units.

Cal State Fullerton has been awarded a nearly $4 million grant to launch CareerLab, a program designed to help students who might not otherwise have access to opportunities.

The Learning Lab’s Grand Challenge Challenge: Aligned Faculty and Industry Science grant opportunity selected the univer-
sity’s Project PIPE-LINE (Psychology Pathways) as a Pathway Laboratory (PathLab) for funding.

By creating this project, Learning Lab hopes to create pathways among foun-
tions of higher education institutions in Southern California, elevate data science educational infrastructure and build the state a leader in data science in underserved communities.

Cal State Fullerton mathematics and computer science faculty are behind Project PIPE-LINE and partnering with UC Irvine, Western University and Cal Poly-
Hondo College.

The grant project aims to attract historically underrepresented students into STEM majors, including women from underrepresented communities, residents and transfer students.

Plans include offering new data science courses, create virtual-agent mentors to self-report and edit their experience and sunset, mentors will be recruited to help connect these students to STEM careers. The grant project also includes faculty and students from CSUF and the University of California, Los Angeles. The project will also seek to recruit students from underrepresented communities, such as those on campus and academic units.

Cal State Fullerton has been awarded a nearly $4 million grant to launch CareerLab, a program designed to help students who might not otherwise have access to opportunities.

The Learning Lab’s Grand Challenge Challenge: Aligned Faculty and Industry Science grant opportunity selected the univer-
sity’s Project PIPE-LINE (Psychology Pathways) as a Pathway Laboratory (PathLab) for funding.

By creating this project, Learning Lab hopes to create pathways among foun-
tions of higher education institutions in Southern California, elevate data science educational infrastructure and build the state a leader in data science in underserved communities.

Cal State Fullerton mathematics and computer science faculty are behind Project PIPE-LINE and partnering with UC Irvine, Western University and Cal Poly-
Hondo College.

The grant project aims to attract historically underrepresented students into STEM majors, including women from underrepresented communities, residents and transfer students.

Plans include offering new data science courses, create virtual-agent mentors to self-report and edit their experience and sunset, mentors will be recruited to help connect these students to STEM careers. The grant project also includes faculty and students from CSUF and the University of California, Los Angeles. The project will also seek to recruit students from underrepresented communities, such as those on campus and academic units.

Cal State Fullerton has been awarded a nearly $4 million grant to launch CareerLab, a program designed to help students who might not otherwise have access to opportunities.
The Titans baseball program became Cal State Fullerton's first national collegiate championship team in any sport. Wilkinson didn't have to ask for permission to compete for Cal State Fullerton, which was selected over the summer. As the U.S. Curtis Cup captain, Martha Wilkinson-Kirouac speaks to the media following a routine practice of golf May 25, 2004, at the Sea Island Golf Club on St. Simons Island, Ga.

In 2003, she was the first female student athlete to compete in the U.S. Curtis Cup tournament, the quintessential event for the nation's top amateurs and professionals. Wilkinson-Kirouac received the national U.S. Women's Golf Coach of the Year award for her efforts in building the Titans' program. The coach joined in 2018 the Cal State Fullerton Athletics Hall of Fame.

Barbara Dillashaw

She was the first female student athlete to compete in the U.S. Curtis Cup tournament, the quintessential event for the nation's top amateurs and professionals. Wilkinson-Kirouac received the national U.S. Women's Golf Coach of the Year award for her efforts in building the Titans' program. The coach joined in 2018 the Cal State Fullerton Athletics Hall of Fame. She was the first female student athlete to compete in the U.S. Curtis Cup tournament, the quintessential event for the nation's top amateurs and professionals. Wilkinson-Kirouac received the national U.S. Women's Golf Coach of the Year award for her efforts in building the Titans' program. The coach joined in 2018 the Cal State Fullerton Athletics Hall of Fame.

Barbara Dillashaw

She was the first female student athlete to compete in the U.S. Curtis Cup tournament, the quintessential event for the nation's top amateurs and professionals. Wilkinson-Kirouac received the national U.S. Women's Golf Coach of the Year award for her efforts in building the Titans' program. The coach joined in 2018 the Cal State Fullerton Athletics Hall of Fame. She was the first female student athlete to compete in the U.S. Curtis Cup tournament, the quintessential event for the nation's top amateurs and professionals. Wilkinson-Kirouac received the national U.S. Women's Golf Coach of the Year award for her efforts in building the Titans' program. The coach joined in 2018 the Cal State Fullerton Athletics Hall of Fame. She was the first female student athlete to compete in the U.S. Curtis Cup tournament, the quintessential event for the nation's top amateurs and professionals. Wilkinson-Kirouac received the national U.S. Women's Golf Coach of the Year award for her efforts in building the Titans' program. The coach joined in 2018 the Cal State Fullerton Athletics Hall of Fame.
Engineering major receives Trustees’ Award for Outstanding Achievement

Anthony Kyle Olson is a mechanical engineering major at Cal State Fullerton. He has been selected as a 2023 recipient of the California State University (CSU) Trustees’ Award for Outstanding Achievement. The award recognizes students who demonstrate superior academic performance, personal accomplishments, community service and financial need. One scholar from each of the 23 campuses is selected for the award, which is the CSU’s highest recognition of student achievement. Each award provides a $7,000 scholarship.

Anthony Kyle Olson

“Olson is an asset to our country and our university,” said CSUF President Sylvia Alva. “He embodies what it means to be a Titan.”

While in the military, Olson’s senior master sergeant praised him for his leadership skills, dependability, professionalism and being a self-starter. He was part of the Humanitarian Response Team of the CSU. His team assisted in restoring power after the destruction of Hurricane Sandy in 2012, where he was tasked in restoring power to families affected by the destructive storm. He worked long hours, including 12-hour overnight shifts for a month.

While in the military, Olson faced financial challenges following his military-to-civilian career transition. He depends on his Veterans Affairs benefits and financial aid for his college education. Like many veterans, Olson faced financial challenges following his military-to-civilian career transition. He depends on his Veterans Affairs benefits and financial aid for his college education.

While in the military, Olson faced financial challenges following his military-to-civilian career transition. He depends on his Veterans Affairs benefits and financial aid for his college education. Like many veterans, Olson faced financial challenges following his military-to-civilian career transition. He depends on his Veterans Affairs benefits and financial aid for his college education.

Anthony Kyle Olson has been selected as a 2023 recipient of the CSU Trustees’ Award for Outstanding Achievement.

While in the military, Olson faced financial challenges following his military-to-civilian career transition. He depends on his Veterans Affairs benefits and financial aid for his college education. Like many veterans, Olson faced financial challenges following his military-to-civilian career transition. He depends on his Veterans Affairs benefits and financial aid for his college education.

Anthony Kyle Olson has been selected as a 2023 recipient of the CSU Trustees’ Award for Outstanding Achievement.

While in the military, Olson faced financial challenges following his military-to-civilian career transition. He depends on his Veterans Affairs benefits and financial aid for his college education. Like many veterans, Olson faced financial challenges following his military-to-civilian career transition. He depends on his Veterans Affairs benefits and financial aid for his college education.

Anthony Kyle Olson has been selected as a 2023 recipient of the CSU Trustees’ Award for Outstanding Achievement.

While in the military, Olson faced financial challenges following his military-to-civilian career transition. He depends on his Veterans Affairs benefits and financial aid for his college education. Like many veterans, Olson faced financial challenges following his military-to-civilian career transition. He depends on his Veterans Affairs benefits and financial aid for his college education.

Anthony Kyle Olson has been selected as a 2023 recipient of the CSU Trustees’ Award for Outstanding Achievement.