Facing food insecurity, financial crunches

By Nicole Gregory, contributing writer

Throughout the academic year we are fairly consistent with requests, said Victoria Ajemian, director of the Basic Needs Services program on campus, so their studies are not derailed by hardship. “Throughout the academic year we are facing food insecurity, especially commuter students,” she said. Loss of COVID-19 protections and higher grocery costs are also causing hardship for students and their families. “Challenges have shifted due to the COVID-19 pandemic with economic demands like the high cost of living and inflation,” she said.

For large, urgent needs, students meet with Ajemian or one of her trained counselors, who will assess their situation and connect them with help.

A big need is food. Free food is available from a pantry on campus overseen by Associated Students, Inc., but Ajemian and her team also provide gift cards to places such as Togo’s and Baja Fresh and alert students to other nearby food pantries.

Campus dining halls are often the first stop for students in need of some food. “We're able to provide up to three meals a day. Students can use this benefit.”

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Addressing climate change goals, clean-energy strategies

Region, campuses share vision

With a climate action plan that includes emissions forecasting, greenhouse gas in- vestment and de-carbonization strategies, Cal State Fullerton is among the fore-runners in pursuing clean-energy innovations, with an end goal of long-term sustainability.

For the second consecutive year, CSUF hosted its Energy Sustainability Summit, which featured three panel discussions involving elected officials, industry profes- sionals and academics in higher education.

Facilitator for the Oct. 27 summit dis- cussed current methods of collaboration plus strategies for continuing the transition to clean energy. Among the panelists were Elinos Thomas, transportation demand manager at CSUF and Tanya Wallace (‘09, ‘13), senior man- ager of energy, sustainability and transporta- tion in the Department of Capital Plan- ning, Design and Construction, Cal State University of the Chancellor. Sen. Josh Newman, of the 39th Sen- ate District of California, was the keynote speaker for the event, which was cospon- sored by Southern California Edison and Wells Fargo.

Greg Sako, vice president for university advancement at CSUF, delivered opening remarks.

“Absolutely, I think it’s really true that the fact that this summit is happening again is a testament to the region’s collective commitment to our end goal of long-term sustainability and our state’s climate goals and really be that cata- lyst for change,” Sako said. “It’s being at Cal State Fullerton seems so appropriate.”

Wells Fargo.

CSUF currently has 48 electric ve- hicle charging ports on campus and an electric bus. In collaboration with SCE, and better prepare our students for this new industry and these new challenges, our end goal of long-term sustainability.

Among the panelists were Elissa Thomas, project manager for the Department of Energy, Sustainability and Transportation, and Paul Davenport, who manages the Sustainability Office at the Cal State University of the Chancellor.

CSUF was the first campus in the United States. We’re the largest four-year university in Orange County, we’re already seeing impacts of a changing climate, and so many of the challenges facing California can be proud of the state’s demonstrated commitment to decarbonizing the most polluting sectors of the economy, the senator said. “These climate events will eventually affect every community around the world.”

Newman said. “These climate events challenge our infrastructure and damage lives and communities. Here in Orange County, we’re already seeing the effects of a changing climate, from atmospheric rivers to unprecedented heat waves to severe wildfires. Climate change will eventually affect every community around the world.”

Thomas talked about what Cal State Ful- lerton is doing to help the state achieve its climate goals. For example, CSUF was the first campus in the CSU system to craft an electric vehicle plan, she said. Thomas said a master plan is neces- sary because transportation makes up the largest part of the carbon footprint.

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Arboretum and Campus Garden keep The Pantry stocked

For biological science student Gloria Castañón, studying cancer treatment disparities among the Hispanic population is personal. Family members have been diagnosed with breast, lung, and prostate cancers.

Castañón grew up in Oxnard in Ventura County, where her family works in strawberry fields and picked other crops.

"Finding out more about cancer is especially important to me because I come from an agricultural community in which my family is exposed to harmful pesticide-related toxicities," she said. "The lack of cancer care resources deeply impacted my father, grandfather, and paternal grandmother."

Castañón is learning about cancer disparities as an undergraduate researcher in Cal State Fullerton’s Cancer Research Equity Research Institute, which trains students in cancer disparities.

Health disparities are gaps in the health care received that mirror differences in socioeconomic status, racial and ethnic background, and education level, according to the National Institutes of Health.

Marcelo E. Tolmasky, professor of biological sciences and director of CSUF’s Center for Applied Biotechnology Studies, directs the grant program, which partners with UC Irvine’s Chao Family Comprehensive Cancer Center.

"This firsthand experience is helping students, such as food assistance programs free medical treatment to people in low-income, especially important to me because I come from an agricultural community," Castañón said. "Finding out more about cancer is especially important to me because I come from an agricultural community in which my family is exposed to harmful pesticide-related toxicities," she said. "The lack of cancer care resources deeply impacted my father, grandfather, and paternal grandmother."

"This partnership with UCI will contribute to the enhancement of cancer disparities research within the campus through the development of institutional joint cancer research pilot projects, and provide a more ethical and effective cancer disparity within the Hispanic population," she added. "We desperately need to identify people who receive pediatric-inspired regimens with food justice."

Castañón plans to present her research finding that Hispanic patients receiving pediatric-inspired regimens to treat Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia at the 2023 CABSCon 8 meeting and provide a more ethical and effective cancer disparity within the Hispanic population. Castañón grew up in Oxnard in Ventura County, where her family works in strawberry fields and picked other crops.

"I saw how my research could impact students free medical treatment to people in low-income, especially important to me because I come from an agricultural community," Castañón said. "Finding out more about cancer is especially important to me because I come from an agricultural community in which my family is exposed to harmful pesticide-related toxicities," she said. "The lack of cancer care resources deeply impacted my father, grandfather, and paternal grandmother."

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Donors can help people by choosing their favorite cause. CSUF Basic Needs Services also promote the Orange County United Way's Give for Good Orange County campaign, which equates to approximately 600 students per year. Economic inflation has placed a large role in the increase in need, but Johnson says the objective is to not let the economy keep these Titans from pursuing their educational goals.

“We don’t want those outside factors to be the reason they are getting pulled away from their career path and from where they want to go,” Johnson said. “For any student, Cal State Fullerton is a stepping stone in what they want to do for the rest of their lives. They’re spending those very transformative years here to get somewhere else, and for some people, it’s to get a better life. With Basic Needs Services, they’re able to stay on track, graduate and get to that next point.”

In the past four years, Giving Tuesday donations have reached more than $10,000 for Basic Needs Grants, and this year, the goal is to surpass $10,000 in giving in support of this emergency funding for students. For 2023, a generous donor is providing a matching gift up to $5,000, allowing each person’s donation to make a new impact. “We’re really grateful for our matching gift donor,” Johnson said. “It allows people who think that their donation might not mean a lot to actually have a really great value. It means a lot when people choose on Giving Tuesday to prioritize Cal State Fullerton because we are able to make something happen and make the student’s experience,” Walsh said. “With Basic Needs Services, they’re able to stay on track, graduate and get to that next point.”

In her new role, Walsh looks for opportunities to continue to be a partner in that way.
New digital toys
Unlikely alliance
forming Arts Center.

Arts for opportunities to grow,” she said.

great to expand. We’re always looking

grocery store gift cards, which would

pantry or the Career Center, which can

about on campus such as the ASI food

dents to resources they didn’t know

consumer awareness.

seminar on how to be proactive in cre-

how to manage the practicalities of

sarial clothing are donated by faculty,

starting an internship.

clothing for a job interview or if they’re

of gently used clothing from the Tuffy

full-size hygiene products that students

Ajemian said.

FROM P AGE 1

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began working on “The Boys and the

Department of Fine and Performing Arts,

dence at the Loyola University Chicago

million uses for this technology.”

of older computers,” Grisetti said. “I’m

phones.

stage management functions, as well as

production possible, “it’s also just a really

serves the needs of the school and di-

Featuring music of the ’80s, “The Boys

searching for his place in the world.

A spark?

Workshops for students that explain

One of the more popular aspects of

school level, then came on as the head

$1.5 million in a golf program founda-

began working on “The Boys and the

nuns” just before the COVID-19 pandemic hit.

“I love my city and its history and was really

achieved some success in the classroom and

working toward achieving some-

One team’s logo was the yellow and

involved in the development of the

the Barnard-Building Program, the

spokesman for the Titans.

in the church, and I thought how beautiful

“The Boys and the Nuns” have particular resonance in such

the number of shows that explicitly showcase

pipeline — you can count on one hand

are not being told, we need to incubate new

not serving the needs of the students or so-

way does,” Grisetti said, “but if Broadway is

Delgado often turns to history for inspira-

Folino’s death was reported in mul-

PHOTO BY MICHAEL KITADA, ORANGE COUNTY REGISTER/SCNG

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Paul Folino, former CEO of Envisions and longtime CSUF board member, shown at a

Once a month, students can receive complimentary full-sized hygiene products.

Food and financial assistance, temporary housing and a career coach are all available to students in need.

Rob Gordon, CSUF’s first golf coach, passed away earlier this month, leaving a lasting impact on the CSUF golf program and the university.

The Titans have also made two NCAA Tournament appearances and have also had multiple golfers named to all-con-
Taylor motivates players to live up to their potential

By Brian Robin,
Staff Writer

Dedrique Taylor was in an expansive, almost exuberant, mood, his usual re-
served, cool, clinical demeanor buried under an excitement usually seen at the
end of the season — if then.

For that, you can thank two factors — his Cal State Fullerton men’s basketball
team has played in the last game of the Big West Tournament four of the last
five years, and that, yet again, his follow-through has paid off and did him another huge favor.

They picked the Titans to finish sixth in the preseason coaches poll.

“I love it. They’re so smart, they’re sta-
tific,” he said, his voice rising in excite-
m ent with each letter. “You pick the pro-
gram that has reached the finals of the
Big West Conference Tournament four of the last five years ... It’s part
take and keep on going. Well do we do, and the rest of you can read about it
when we’re still playing and you’re at home. It’s awesome.”

Speaking of “awesome,” Taylor has realized what that word means in the big picture of Cal State Fullerton men’s basketball. He entered his 11th season as the first coach in program history to put up back-to-back 20-win seasons and the only coach to take two CSUF men’s basketball teams to the NCAA Tournament, bringing
the Titans to the 2018 and 2022 Big West Tournaments. Along the way, the Titans lost to Fullerton two years ago. Then again,

That’s Taylor, taking a page from his book and defining this moment in time.

And when he’s not asking his players to do a simple thing. A simple thing rele-
sent by all the experience tournaments.

Now, how are you going to define your

For that, you can thank two factors:

Taylor has created motivational signs

That starts with senior Tory San Antonio, who averaged 14.3 points and 2.4 assists and 1.5 steals per game in three
seasons at Idaho State before transferring to Fullerton last year, averaged 14.3 points in three
seasons at Snow College last year, and averaged 16.3 points, 2.4 assists and 1.5 steals per
game to Alabama, define the moment? Or

Wrightsell’s transfer hit Taylor like a

The Titans’ season going forward. He sees it

The Titans’ big three are reasonable, given their

Their physical things they possess are

Senior guard Max Jones, who averaged 12.5 points a game last year, doing his job so well that he av-

“(I love it) that people that are doing

He has his Cal State Fullerton men’s basketball

“You have the chance to be a really
goal leader. Whether we do or don’t
depend on how you are going to define

Now, how are you going to define your

decision of Div I is important. But more

important here to define them, to well,
doing their new jobs.

“When they were at Division 2, they

We have the chance to be a really
goal leader. Whether we do or don’t
depend on how you are going to define

Thanks to a partnership between CSUF and ESPN,

Loya is now a play-by-play announcer for

Our students are empowered to make

Learn more about Titans Sports Network:

Titans Sports Network and ESPN+

Titans Sports Network is just one of the

many ways our students are empowered to

make their career dreams a reality.

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