

TITAN REPORT

GUARDIAN SCHOLARS PROGRAM CELEBRATES 25 YEARS

For 25 years, Cal State Fullerton's Guardian Scholars Program has helped former foster youth achieve their dreams of earning a college degree by providing them with support services and substantial financial resources.

Launched in 1998 under the leadership of former President Milton Gordon, CSUF's Guardian Scholars became a model for foster youth programs across the country, including all 23 California State University campuses. Funded through donor and community support, the program was created in collaboration with Orangewood Foundation and alumnus Ron Davis '69 (B.A. business administration).

Throughout its history, CSUF's Guardian Scholars has graduated 251 students, and 27 more are on track to earn their degrees this spring.

According to the National Foster Youth Initiative, 50% of children in foster care will finish high school, and only 3%-4% will obtain a four-year college degree. Students in foster care who enroll in universities deal with such barriers as living expenses, housing, access to technology and lack of guidance in navigating academia.



CSUF's Guardian Scholars Program addresses these obstacles through financial aid and basic needs support while providing students with academic and professional resources, including mentorship, advising, leadership and career development opportunities.

"This scholarship was my ticket to ensuring a brighter future for both myself and my son," said Junely Merwin, a CSUF graduate student and former foster youth who earned her bachelor's degree in human services.

news.fullerton.edu/junely-merwin

CSUF Looks Forward With 2024-29 Strategic Plan

With a vision to serve as a model public university that cultivates leaders who drive innovation and promote collective well-being, Cal State Fullerton unveiled its 2024-29 strategic plan. Fullerton Forward 2024-29 outlines the university's priorities, goals and vision for the next five years, providing a strategic framework for CSUF's future.

The plan includes five goals: enhance support for student access, learning and academic success foster student engagement and well-being; recruit, develop, and retain high-quality and diverse faculty and staff; expand and strengthen physical and financial capacity and community relations; and innovate and improve campus operations.



"Fullerton Forward is our collective work and commitment to continue to reach higher," said CSUF President Sylvia Alva. "This takes all Titans as we shift from strategic planning to strategic doing."

news.fullerton.edu/forward-2024



Photo courtesy:
NASA/Bill Ingalls

Chemistry Alumna Launches Into Space for Third NASA Mission

NASA astronaut and alumna Tracy C. Dyson '93 (B.S. chemistry) will launch to the International Space Station on March 21 and spend about six months aboard the state-of-the-art orbiting laboratory as a flight engineer.

This is Dyson's third mission to space. In 2007, she launched aboard the space shuttle Endeavour on STS-118 for a 12-day mission. In 2010, she spent 176 days in space and performed three successful spacewalks outside the space station.

news.fullerton.edu/tracy-dyson



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Pencil Mileage Club Sharpens Art Students' Skills

Since 1996, Cal State Fullerton's Pencil Mileage Club has provided students with opportunities to build skills, collaborate, forge lasting friendships, visit studios and network with industry professionals.

The club boasts successful alumni, including Eren Unten '03 (B.F.A. art-entertainment art/animation), who has illustrated more than 20 children's books and collaborated with such companies as Penguin Random House, Disney, Hasbro, Nickelodeon and NBC.

news.fullerton.edu/eren-unten

