

# TITAN REPORT



## Cal State Fullerton Kicks Off 2024-25 Academic Year

It's an exciting time for Cal State Fullerton, as students, faculty and staff prepare for a new academic year. The university is anticipating close to 43,000 students in the fall, including approximately 7,000 first-time, first-year students and more than 4,500 new transfer students.

CSUF President Ronald Rochon began his tenure as the university's 10th president on July 22. A first-generation college graduate with more than 30 years of experience in higher education, Rochon looks forward to advancing CSUF's mission through the Fullerton Forward 2024-29 strategic plan. Other new campus leaders include Celestina Barbosa-Leiker, dean of the College of Health and Human Development, and Jessica Stern, dean of the College of Humanities and Social Sciences.

Thirty-five tenure-track faculty members joined the university this fall, with research expertise that spans such topics as neuroscience, bilingual counselor education and artificial intelligence.

New academic programs offered for the first time this fall include a bachelor's degree in urban learning, a real estate concentration for business administration students and a minor in SWANA (Southwest Asia and North Africa).

Titans will notice significant progress on the renovation of the College of the Arts visual arts complex. Visual arts classes will be held in the new buildings this fall, and gallery spaces will open with exhibitions in November. The Visual Arts Modernization Project includes new buildings, renovated classrooms for digital art concentrations, a green screen room and more.

[news.fullerton.edu/academic-year-2024-25](https://news.fullerton.edu/academic-year-2024-25)

## Two CSUF Programs Earn National Recognition for Promoting Graduate Education

Excelencia in Education, a national nonprofit that champions Latinx success in higher education, recognized two Cal State Fullerton programs — Project upGRADS and Master of Science in Higher Education — as 2024 Examples of Excelencia Finalists. The award spotlights programs across the nation that are dedicated to intentionally serving Latino students.

Project upGRADS, or “Utilizing and Promoting Graduate Resources and Access for Disadvantaged Students,” has been highly successful due to its advising, mentorship and scholarship efforts, with close to 7,000 graduate students served. The program has improved enrollment, persistence and graduation rates for Latinx graduate students.

The Master of Science in Higher Education program prepares graduates for roles in higher education that support student learning and development. From 2020-23, the graduation rate of Latinx students in the program was 92.6%. For the 2023-24 academic year, 70% of the students enrolled in the program were Latinx.

[news.fullerton.edu/excelencia-recognition](https://news.fullerton.edu/excelencia-recognition)



## Alumni and Family Weekend

The third annual Alumni and Family Weekend from Oct. 4-6 invites alumni, current students and their families to campus for a weekend of engagement and connection. Celebrate Titan spirit and create lasting memories with the CSUF community. Register for the event at [bit.ly/afw2024-1](https://bit.ly/afw2024-1)



# CSUF Secures Nearly \$58 Million in Grants and Contracts

For the third consecutive year, Cal State Fullerton increased its grants and contracts funding, securing nearly \$58 million and setting a new university record.

This achievement surpasses the previous record of \$46.1 million during the 2022-23 fiscal year and represents a 25% increase with approximately 150 awards from various federal, state and local governments, as well as private and nonprofit organizations. Since the 2018-19 fiscal year, when the university secured \$27 million in awards, external funding has increased more than 110%.

[news.fullerton.edu/58-million-in-grants-and-contracts](https://news.fullerton.edu/58-million-in-grants-and-contracts)



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# Mathematics Students Benefit From Friel Family Scholarship

Mathematics student Aaron Kim is the inaugural scholarship recipient of the James Friel Family Award Endowment, which was created by James O. Friel, chair and professor emeritus of mathematics, and his wife, Betty, to support students studying probability and actuarial science.

Kim chose CSUF because of the university's highly acclaimed actuarial science program, which guides students into careers as actuaries and was listed among Universities and Colleges with Actuarial Programs-Advanced Curriculum by the Society of Actuaries.

[news.fullerton.edu/aaron-kim](https://news.fullerton.edu/aaron-kim)

Photo courtesy of Greg Andersen

