

TITAN REPORT



CSUF Earns 2024 Seal of Excelencia for Advancing Latinx Student Success

Committed to engaging, enrolling and graduating Latinx students, Cal State Fullerton was recertified with the 2024 Seal of Excelencia. The prestigious certification is awarded to U.S. institutions that go beyond Latinx student enrollment to intentionally serve Latinx student populations.

“We are grateful to be recertified for this prestigious recognition,” said CSUF President Ronald S. Rochon. “As a No. 5 institution in the nation for awarding bachelor’s degrees to Hispanic students, Cal State Fullerton proudly serves our Latinx student population through an inclusive campus culture and innovative programs. The Seal of Excelencia not only amplifies our role as a Hispanic-Serving Institution, but also recognizes the commitment and accomplishments of all Titans.”

CSUF is one of nine institutions to earn recertification in 2024 after demonstrating how it accelerates Latinx student success through a rigorous application process. Eight institutions earned the seal for the first time this year. These 17 colleges and universities will have the seal through 2027.

The seal was awarded to CSUF by Excelencia in Education, a national organization that aims to accelerate Latinx student success in higher education and significantly increase the number of Latinx students obtaining college degrees by 2030. The Washington, D.C.-based nonprofit reports that 46 colleges and universities have earned the seal since 2018, and these institutions enroll 17% and graduate 19% of Latinx students nationwide.

With a 52.3% Latinx student population, Cal State Fullerton first earned the seal in 2021 and is celebrating its 20th anniversary as a Hispanic-Serving Institution.

news.fullerton.edu/2024-seal-of-excelencia



\$5 Million NASA Grant Launches CSUF Aerospace Research Center

Cal State Fullerton was awarded a nearly \$5 million NASA grant to launch the new SpaceIgnite Center for Advanced Research-Education in Combustion to prepare a diverse workforce in the aerospace industry.

As part of the grant project, the SPARC Center will expand aerospace research to support future space exploration missions and boost the number of underrepresented students in STEM careers. Students will also have the opportunity to intern and conduct research at the NASA Glenn Research Center and develop professional networks with industry partners.

“I am confident that through the SPARC Center, students will learn about leading technology in the aerospace industry, acquire technical skills and develop an innovative spirit to become leaders in this industry,” said Haowei Wang, professor of mechanical engineering and project director.

news.fullerton.edu/5-million-nasa-grant



Communications Students Learn the Ins and Outs of Campaign Strategy

Ahead of the November election, students in CSUF's Politics in the Mediasphere class are learning how to dissect political campaigns and become professional political communicators.

Using local, state and national elections as a living laboratory, students are analyzing real-world political messaging while it's happening. Studying such topics as celebrity endorsements, public speaking strategies and advertising, students will use what they learn to design and manage their own campaign.

"Without communications, there would be no campaigns. It is the bridge between politicians and voters, and it means everything," said Ricardo Valencia, associate professor of communications.

news.fullerton.edu/politics-in-the-mediasphere



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Engineering Student Honored for Superhero-Inspired Ambition

Cal State Fullerton mechanical engineering student Estrella Bonilla is a 2024 recipient of the California State University Trustees' Award for Outstanding Achievement. As the Edison International Scholar, she will receive a \$7,000 scholarship.

Inspired by her favorite fictional superheroes and inventors like Marvel's Iron Man, Bonilla aspires to a career in the renewable energy sector where she can work to solve a myriad of sustainability challenges.

news.fullerton.edu/estrella-bonilla

