



TITANREPORT

Nursing Doctoral Student Receives CSU Outstanding Achievement Award

For Cal State Fullerton student Fajer Al Najjar, her pathway to nursing began in a war-torn country, where she often changed schools to flee the impact of war. These childhood experiences made her more adaptable, empathetic and determined to provide patient-centered care as a nurse anesthetist.

For her dedication to improving the lives of others through health care, Al Najjar is the recipient of the 2025-26 California State University Trustees' Award for Outstanding Achievement. She was named a Hearst Foundations Scholar and is receiving a \$14,000 scholarship.

Al Najjar graduated from CSUF in 2018 with a bachelor's degree in health science and went on to earn a master's degree in nursing from UCLA. She practiced as a registered nurse at Riverside Community Hospital before pursuing a doctorate to advance her career.

Al Najjar's first choice was CSUF's nursing practice-nurse anesthesia doctoral program, which is ranked No. 1 in California by U.S. News & World Report and offered in partnership with the Kaiser Permanente School of Anesthesia.

"Being part of such a rigorous program has helped me grow more confident and prepared for the high-stakes nature of anesthesia patient care," she said.



CSUF President Ronald Rochon noted that Al Najjar is committed to advocating for systemic improvements in health care: "She fully embodies the values of the CSU Trustees' Award — academic excellence, resilience, leadership and service."

news.fullerton.edu/csu-trustee-award-2025

Washington Monthly Names CSUF in 'Best Bang for the Buck' List



Cal State Fullerton earned the No. 5 slot out of 197 colleges on Washington Monthly's 2025 list of America's Best Bang for the Buck Colleges: West, moving up from No. 16 in 2024 and No. 19 in 2023.

Washington Monthly ranked 1,421 United States colleges on access, affordability, outcomes and service. The annual list highlights schools by region that not only help students gain valuable degrees for an affordable tuition, but also provide an education that is more likely to improve their economic and social mobility.

For its commitment to academic excellence, Cal State Fullerton was also featured as one of Forbes' 2026 America's Top Colleges, ranking at No. 26 in the West and at No. 85 among research universities on the list.

news.fullerton.edu/csuf-rankings-fall-2025

'Wicked' Director Jon M. Chu Tells Students to 'Follow Your Curiosity'

Award-winning filmmaker Jon M. Chu, who is known for directing the global phenomenon "Crazy Rich Asians" and the two-part "Wicked" films, inspired Cal State Fullerton students during a Beyond the Conversation event.

He advised students to follow their curiosity. "It's not about passion; you can love a lot of things," he said. "It's about that little piece of thread that's pulling you to follow."

Presented by Associated Students Inc. and the Division of Student Affairs and Strategic Enrollment Management, the Beyond the Conversation speaker series aims to empower students by inviting notable speakers to campus.

news.fullerton.edu/jon-m-chu



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Inspired by His Titan Education, Business Alum Gives Back to Campus

While earning his degree in business administration at Cal State Fullerton, William Bryan discovered a passion for helping people manage their finances. This laid the foundation for him to launch a more than 30-year career in wealth management with companies like Capital Group, Edward Jones and LPL Financial.

Now a member of CSUF's Alumni Association board of directors, Bryan gives back to the university through its scholarship endowment fund. The fund awards \$2,500 scholarships to 10 students each academic year.

news.fullerton.edu/william-bryan