

SEARCH PROSPECTUS: PROVOST AND THE VICE PRESIDENT FOR ACADEMIC AFFAIRS



Cal State Fullerton®

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California State University, Fullerton is seeking a passionate advocate for student success and faculty and staff to serve as our next Provost.

Founded in 1957 by the California State Legislature Act, Cal State Fullerton is “a comprehensive, regional University with a global outlook.” It is located in Fullerton, California, a community of approximately 137,000 people located 30 miles southeast of Los Angeles. There were over 44,000 students enrolled in fall 2025, the majority of whom live in Orange County.

Over 80 nations are represented in the student body. With 54% of the undergraduate population Hispanic/Latino, the University is designated as a Hispanic Serving Institution. It is one of ten universities in

the US awarded the Seal of Exelencia from Exelencia in Education. Classes are offered on the main campus in Fullerton and online. In addition, professional development programs are offered throughout the year through CSUF Extension.

Watch this video to learn more about Cal State Fullerton



THE UNIVERSITY

About Cal State Fullerton

With an operating budget of approximately \$595 million for the 2024-2025 fiscal year, the University offers 120 degrees: 57 undergraduate degrees and 63 graduate degrees, including doctorates in education and nursing practice. Cal State Fullerton has 8 colleges, including the largest accredited business school on the west coast. The University employs respectively over 2,400 full-time and part-time faculty members, as well as nearly 2,000 staff members.

Cal State Fullerton is a major driver of economic activity statewide, powering \$2.26 billion in economic activity. The quality of faculty at Cal State Fullerton, 81% of whom hold a doctoral degree, is reflected in the numerous state, national, and international awards.

A Titan education is defined by high-impact immersive learning experiences amid rich perspectives and backgrounds. CSUF graduates are academically confident, culturally competent, well prepared, and uniquely positioned to excel in their local communities, in the global marketplace, and in the journey of lifelong learning.

U.S. News and World Report ranks Cal State Fullerton among the top 10 performers in the nation for social mobility (Sept. 2024). Money magazine rates CSUF 4.5 stars in its list of Best Colleges in America (June 2024). Cal State Fullerton is No. 4 in the nation for total bachelor's degrees granted to Hispanic/Latino students, according to Hispanic Outlook on Education Magazine (Oct. 2024). Diverse: Issues in Higher Education ranks CSUF at No. 4 in the nation for bachelor's degrees awarded to Hispanics (Nov. 2024).

In fall 2025, CSUF enrolls record-high number of students of over 44,000. Nearly 60% of these students receive financial aid, and about 32% of them are the first in their families to attend a university.

Mission

Cal State Fullerton transforms lives through innovative and quality education, research, and creative activities. We inspire all members of the Titan community to engage in their lifelong pursuit of critical inquiry and societal advancement; to become catalysts for empowerment and inclusivity; and to advance the intellectual, cultural, and economic growth of Orange County and beyond.

Vision

Cal State Fullerton will serve as a model public university that cultivates leaders who drive innovation, sustained change, and collective well-being in local and global communities.

Strategic Plan

CSUF's ambitious 2024-2029 strategic plan Fullerton Forward provides an excellent roadmap for evolving the institution's focus on student access, academic success, support, and well-being. It also addresses critical areas of recruitment and retention of students, faculty, and staff, as well as goals related to the physical and financial capacity of the institution and associated campus operations. Several of the plan's goals and strategies will involve significant leadership and partnership of the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs.

Orange County

Orange County's three million residents enjoy a nearly perfect climate in which parks and beaches provide abundant opportunities for outdoor activities. Orange County is the home of exciting professional sports, a wide range of tourist attractions, including Disneyland, and quality venues for visual and performing arts. Orange County boasts a thriving business economy and a well-educated workforce. The County of Orange is a regional service provider with core businesses including public safety, public health, environmental protection, regional planning, public assistance, social services, and aviation.



DIVISION OF ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

The Division of Academic Affairs at Cal State Fullerton builds coalitions across campus and in the community to advance the University's mission to promote collaboration as a pillar of student achievement and success in a varied and interconnected world.

COLLEGES

College of the Arts

Cal State Fullerton's College of the Arts is an essential part of the creative fabric of Southern California, proudly serving as both an academic and cultural resource. It is a living laboratory for the arts, where success is measured in lines of dialogue, phrases of choreography, sheets of music, and slabs of clay. COTA Alumni leave lasting legacies by contributing to the vitality of the arts nationally and globally and can be found in all facets of the thriving art and entertainment industries. Each year, the college enthusiastically opens its doors to more than 40,000 students, campus and community members who attend the hundreds of concerts, exhibitions, workshops, masterclasses, visiting artists' lectures, and performances it presents.

<https://www.fullerton.edu/arts/>

College of Business and Economics

The CSUF College of Business and Economics provides student-focused education, grounded in academic excellence and personal development, that empowers students to change their lives, the organizations they lead and the communities they serve. Whether students are starting their academic journey or pursuing an advanced business degree, CBE will prepare them to be leaders in today's ever-changing economic environment.

<https://business.fullerton.edu/>



COLLEGES CONTINUED

College of Communications

Academic programs in the College cover the full gamut of communications, which prepare students to work in all areas and related fields in business, education, entertainment, government, health care, nonprofit, and more.

<https://communications.fullerton.edu/>

College of Education

The College of Education provides educators, leaders and professionals in various learning environments with the ability to apply critical and informed thinking to professional practice and problem-solving and to use these skills and attributes to become change agents in their schools, communities and other work places. The College prepares students to become active and critical thinkers in order to meet academic requirements related to university learning.

<https://ed.fullerton.edu/>

College of Engineering and Computer Science

The curricula of the College of Engineering and Computer Science are designed to prepare students for careers in engineering and computer science and for further study and specialization in graduate work. The faculty of the college are actively involved, not only in instruction and scholarship, but also in the advising of students on topics relating to the planning of career and program goals. Cooperative education and internship programs are generally available.

<https://www.fullerton.edu/ecs/>

College of Health and Human Development

The College of Health and Human Development is committed to excellent programs, focused on student success and being highly engaged in the community. Our student-centered faculty are recognized for outstanding teaching and cutting-edge research. Our state-of-the-art classrooms, laboratories and student success centers are well equipped to support student learning. Our programs meet rigorous national accreditation standards, produce graduates who consistently perform at the highest levels on certification and licensure examinations, and provide experiential learning opportunities that link graduates to meaningful careers.

<https://hhd.fullerton.edu/>

College of Humanities and Social Sciences

The College of Humanities and Social Sciences (H&SS) offers students the breadth of a traditional liberal arts education while preparing them for a wide range of professions, graduate school and advanced professional study. It is home to more than 20 different departments and programs. All majors in H&SS provide students with the broad education and core skills that will be attractive to employers in whatever career or field a graduate may choose. For those seeking to become high school teachers, we offer programs leading to secondary credentials in English/Language Arts, Foreign Languages and History/Social Science.

<https://hss.fullerton.edu/>



COLLEGES CONTINUED

College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics

The curricula of the College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics are designed to prepare students for careers in scientific, mathematical and other technical fields; for further study and specialization in advanced graduate work; and for entry into professional schools of medicine and other health-related disciplines. The faculty of the college are actively involved, not only in instruction and research, but in the advising of students in the college on topics relating to the planning of career and program goals. Cooperative education and internship programs are available in each of the College's Departments. The College sponsors a variety of professional and educational programs at which students and faculty have an opportunity to meet with their counterparts.

<https://www.fullerton.edu/nsm/>

Library

Chief among campus learning resources is the Pollak Library. Located at the center of the campus and offering robust physical and electronic collections, the library consists of a six-story south wing and a newer four-story north wing.

The library provides access to over 200 online databases, over 140,000 electronic journals and online collections of streaming audio, video and digitized primary source materials. In addition to physical and electronic book collections of almost two million volumes, the library also contains a wide array of other materials, including print and online government publications (federal, state, local and international), audiovisual collections, archival and rare items, maps and microforms.

<https://www.library.fullerton.edu/>



FACILITIES

The Fullerton campus consists of 110 permanent buildings, including student housing for approx. 2,000 residents and the 585-seat Titan Dining Hall. Other additions in recent years include the new Visual Arts Complex, Titan Hall, Children's Center, Student Recreation Center, Steven G. Mihaylo Hall, and the University Police and Emergency Operations Center. Other major campus structures include the Joseph A. W. Clayes III Performing Arts Center, Paulina June & George Pollak Library, and Titan Student Union, which recently completed an expansion to add 27,000 square feet. The facility has a 1,200-seat events pavilion, small theater, food court, pub, bowling alley, and conference rooms.

The Kinesiology and Health Science Building includes the Center for Successful Aging. The Charles L. and Rachel E. Ruby Gerontology Center is home to the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute. The 10-story College Park building on Nutwood Avenue houses the College of Communications and College of Education and provides additional classrooms and office space for staff and faculty. Three parking structure, providing parking for about 5,500 vehicles, expanded the overall number of campus parking spaces at Cal State Fullerton to 11,306.

Cal State Fullerton's commitment to sustainability has been recognized by the U.S. Green Building Council as the newest student housing complex received the first Platinum Leadership in Energy and



Environmental Design certification. Another example of Cal State Fullerton's sustainability efforts is the recent completion of a solar-energy network on the top deck of the Eastside Parking Structure. The photovoltaic installation includes three solar systems installed on the rooftops of two campus buildings, the Clayes Performing Arts Center, the Kinesiology and Health Science Building, and atop a carport of the parking structure where six electric-vehicle charging stations, the first such solar-powered stations in the California State University (CSU) system, were installed as part of the project. The latest in a series of Cal State Fullerton clean-energy projects, the installation is expected to produce 1.16 megawatt hours of electricity annually for the campus, while offsetting more than 700 metric tons of greenhouse gas emissions each year. In the next 25 years, Cal State Fullerton is expected to reap \$9 million in utility savings.

Through the Associated Students, Inc., Fullerton offers an accredited child development center on campus.

The Arboretum and Botanical Garden at Cal State Fullerton is located at the northeast corner of the main campus. The Arboretum is open to the public. The historical Heritage House, built in 1894 and moved to the 26-acre botanical preserve in 1972, was restored and currently serves as a museum devoted to the history of Orange County's beginnings as an agricultural region as well as the contributions of the Japanese American community and local pioneer families to its economic growth and development.

STUDENT ACTIVITIES

Student Affairs and College programs deliver an active student co-curriculum, including opportunities for community service, recreation, arts and culture, professional development, and continuous learning to address the whole student experience. For example, the College of the Arts presents a variety of cultural attractions showcasing student and faculty talent plus guest artists. Associated Students productions hosts entertainment programs at venues throughout the campus.

The Titan Sports Complex was established in 1992, featuring Titan Stadium (10,000 seats), Goodwin Field (3,500 seats), and Anderson Field for softball, a track and full-sized soccer field. Men's intercollegiate athletics programs are NCAA Division I baseball (2004, 1995, 1984 and 1979 national

championships), basketball, cross country, golf, soccer, and track and field. Division I women's sports are basketball, cross country, golf, indoor and outdoor track and field, soccer, softball (1986 national championship), tennis, and volleyball. In 2022, the campus added Men's and Women's Water Polo to their athletics teams and opened its new aquatics center featuring an Olympic sized pool.

The choice of the elephant as the University's mascot, dubbed Tuffy Titan, dates back to the spring of 1962 when the campus hosted "The First Intercollegiate Elephant Race in Human History." The student-organized event attracted 10,000 spectators, 15 pachyderm entrants, and worldwide news coverage.



PRIVATE SUPPORT

The Cal State Fullerton Philanthropic Foundation (CSFPF) oversees the management of charitable gifts to the University. The CSFPF Board of Governors focuses on building and strengthening relationships with communities served to encourage advocacy, investment, and support of the University, its mission, goals, and programs that advance student success. Cultivating significant opportunities for the future of Cal State Fullerton requires a large network of community support groups. These affiliates include the President's Associates, CSUF Alumni Association, Art Alliance, Colleagues of the College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics, Emeriti, Friends of the Fullerton Arboretum, MAMM Alliance for the Performing Arts, Music Associates, Osher Lifelong Learning Institute, Patrons of the Library, Reading Educators Guild, Titan Advocates, and Titan Athletics Council.



ABOUT THE PROVOST AND THE VICE PRESIDENT FOR ACADEMIC AFFAIRS POSITION

JOB SUMMARY

Reporting directly to the University President, the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs is a member of the President's Cabinet and one of six vice presidents of the University. As a Hispanic-serving institution, CSUF seeks a Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs who has experience with addressing the needs of a complex and multicultural campus population primarily comprised of first-generation and commuter students. The Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs will provide academic and strategic leadership for all the University's undergraduate, graduate, research and public service programs. In addition, they will provide leadership to more than 2,000 faculty and 300 staff members, eight colleges, Academic Programs, Academic Operations, Academic Student Success, Academic Finances and Space Management, Research and Sponsored Projects, Strategic Initiatives, Library, and Extension and International Programs. The incumbent must have a clear understanding of national educational policies and how to influence those policies for a model comprehensive university. The successful candidate will be an effective and empowering manager, an advocate for inclusive excellence, an experienced partner in shared, collegial university governance, as well a collaborator who can build relationships with the community to gain support for and understanding of the institution..

PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITIES

Executive Management

- Participates as a member of the President's Cabinet responsible for executive leadership of the University.
- Provides overall leadership for academic affairs and serves as the leader of the institution in the absence of the President.
- Leads the successful implementation of the University's strategic plan and the formulation and articulation of clear goals for the University's academic officers with respect to University priorities.
- Builds relationships across the California State University system and serves as a key information funnel, filter, and facilitator for the President, collecting new information and prioritizing and synthesizing it for the President.
- Provides proactive, data-informed strategic guidance to the President on a wide range of academic issues, including program offerings, student success, research, faculty, and communities.
- Cultivates strong, effective working relationships with key leaders across the University, including the vice presidents, Council of Deans, Department Chairs, Associated Students Inc., and union leaders.
- Maintains a strong and visible presence in the University community and promotes Cal State Fullerton's mission, values and interests to all stakeholders.
- Collaborates with the Academic Senate in support of shared governance.
- Participates in the budget development for the University to leverage and harness academic capacity while mitigating financial threats for the overall effect of improving the financial sustainability of the institution.

Academic Affairs

- Works closely with the President, college deans, department chairs and other officers in Academic Affairs to define academic priorities and develop strategies for achieving goals, providing overarching academic leadership and planning.
- Develops an academic vision where student success, access, strategic enrollment, and retention are top priorities for traditional and nontraditional learners.
- Stimulates collegiality, cooperation, and innovation with faculty during the process of academic programming, course design, and curriculum development.
- Enriches learning experiences through the promotion of innovative academic offerings; helps design and implement innovative strategies affecting the future of higher education.
- Fosters a vibrant learning community by facilitating and supporting collaboration and communication across the University.
- Provides academic input to institutional enrollment growth and management efforts.
- Plans and administers annual budgeting process for Academic Affairs and manages resources to meet strategic goals.

ABOUT THE PROVOST AND THE VICE PRESIDENT FOR ACADEMIC AFFAIRS POSITION CONTINUED

- Promotes faculty leadership through active engagement and supports faculty in teaching, research, creative activity, professional development and service.
- Supports periodic academic program reviews and accreditation, and works with Deans and Chairs in the review, study, and development of curriculum and the improvement of instruction.
- Maintains academic standards of the California State University system and of relevant accrediting bodies.

Inclusive Excellence

- Fosters globalization initiatives in the University.
- Promotes inclusive excellence and supports the needs of all students.
- Supports and leads initiatives to recruit, hire, and retain distinguished faculty who strive to maintain academic excellence in teaching and scholarship.
- Fosters a culture that recognizes and rewards performance, builds confidence, and encourages interaction and teamwork.



QUALIFICATIONS

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS

- An earned doctorate and/or terminal professional degree from an accredited institution of higher education.
- A strong and established record of academic accomplishment acceptable for tenure as a full professor in a discipline offered at the University.
- Minimum of six years of academic administrative experience and at least three years leading an academic unit at the level of dean or higher.
- Demonstrates substantive budget management experience in a multifaceted financial environment with a focus on clear and transparent processes that align strategic, academic, and operational planning and resource allocation functions, inclusive of cost containment strategies.
- Proficiency with data-driven decision-making processes and utilizing institutional data to inform strategic planning, policy development, and academic programs centered on student success.
- Demonstrated capacity to advocate for resource allocation and support services tailored to the varied needs of each college or area within Academic Affairs.
- Demonstrated leadership in addressing the complexities of serving the educational needs of a diverse environment and success in promoting and resourcing initiatives that lead to equity and inclusion.
- Demonstrated understanding of, and ability to thrive within, the governance and administrative processes used in publicly supported higher education institutions.
- Ability to communicate effectively and establish and maintain effective professional relationships with internal and external stakeholders.
- Experience utilizing a university leadership role to work effectively with professionals in industry, education, community, or governmental organizations.
- Demonstrated commitment to working in and fostering a welcoming and inclusive environment.
- Demonstrated body of work that is student-focused and that demonstrates a commitment to inclusive excellence within the academic community.
- Comprehensive understanding of higher education trends, challenges, and best practices.
- Knowledge of accreditation standards, compliance requirements, and regulatory frameworks relevant to academic programs and institutional operations.
- Knowledge of and understanding of differences and needs in disciplines within various colleges and areas within Academic Affairs.

- Demonstrated ability to promote interdisciplinary and cross-disciplinary learning experiences, student research and high-impact practices.
- Knowledge and ability to serve as a primary liaison with the Academic Senate and to support strong shared governance practices and relationships, including the faculty's role in institutional decision-making processes.

PREFERRED QUALIFICATIONS

- Progressive record of extensive and successful administrative experience, including experience at a large comprehensive university at the level of dean, associate provost, provost, or a similar position.
- Demonstrated capacity for mentoring of deans, associate vice presidents, and other academic leaders.
- Demonstrates success in strategic planning and strategic enrollment management.
- Fosters collaborative work with faculty academic leaders and other stakeholders to identify the priorities of the University and develop strategies and tactics for achieving them.
- Proven track record of successful collaboration in a shared governance environment and working within a collective bargaining environment in a democratic, flexible style to advance institutional goals and priorities.
- Demonstrated record of supporting student success strategies that foster a holistic student-centered learning environment, increase retention and graduation rates, and address issues of access for all.
- Demonstrated ability in implementing institutional and programmatic initiatives aimed at providing high quality education leading to student success.
- Demonstrated commitment to excellence in teaching and learning, with an understanding of digital education and emerging technologies.
- Experience with retention, tenure, and promotion processes and/or advanced professional development processes.
- Demonstrated understanding of the challenges facing Hispanic-serving institutions and higher education today and the ability to address them in a large comprehensive university with positive outcomes.
- Ability to articulate a compelling message about the value and impact of the University's programs to multicultural audiences.
- Evidence of successful partnerships with the broader community.
- Ability to articulate a compelling message about the value and impact of the University's programs to multicultural audiences.

APPLICATION / NOMINATION PROCESS

Cal State Fullerton has partnered with SP&A Executive Search for this search. The Search Committee will begin reviewing applications immediately. Applicants must submit a current curriculum vitae and a letter of interest describing relevant experience. Nomination letters should include the name and contact information of the nominee. All nominations and applications will be handled in confidence.

Applications and letters of nomination should be submitted by email to:

Alberto Pimentel, Managing Partner

Sal Venegas Jr., Partner

Email: apsearch@spaexec.com

Refer to code "CSUF-Provost" in the subject line.

All candidates must also formally apply via the [Cal State Fullerton's application portal](#).

California State University, Fullerton is deeply committed to fostering an inclusive environment within which students, staff, administrators and faculty thrive. Individuals interested in advancing the University's strategic goals are strongly encouraged to apply. Reasonable accommodations will be provided for qualified applicants with disabilities who self-disclose. committed to fostering an inclusive environment within which students, staff, administrators and faculty thrive. Individuals interested in advancing the University's strategic goals are strongly encouraged to apply. Reasonable accommodations will be provided for qualified applicants with disabilities who self-disclose.

