



# Male-Success Initiative Newsletter

## Summer Issue

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**Brotherhood Spotlight**

**Discover our 4  
Pillars of Success**

Academic Coaching/  
Tailored Mentoring  
Career Trajectory  
Gender & Masculinity  
L.E.E.D.



**Achieving the Fullness of our Potential**

**Student Success**



## Mission Statement

The Male Success Initiative-Fullerton (MSI-Fullerton) at California State University-Fullerton is “Where Undergraduate Men of Color Achieve the Fullness of Their Potential”.

Our purpose is to support and advance the outcomes of undergraduate men of color by providing tailored programming and services that equip and empower brothers with the skills and knowledge needed to foster academic success; establish a support network of mentors; increase graduation & retention rates; and strengthen the sense of brotherhood among all CSUF students who self-identify as men of color.

## STAY CONNECTED TO MSI-FULLERTON

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# Futoshi Nakagawa

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**Director of  
Male Success  
Initiative**

**What is your definition of success?**

Success is the result of intentional planning, consistent effort, and making tough decisions and sacrifices when necessary.

**How do you support the brothers?**

My approach to supporting our brothers at MSI is doing what I can to make them feel welcomed, valued, and connected during their college experience at CSUF.

**How do you think MSI impacts our students?**

Being part of MSI gives students the opportunity to navigate their way to their authentic selves; that is, through conversations, experiences, and self-reflection, they realize who they are and what they can become.

The background image shows a presentation stage. A large banner in the background features the word 'WISCONSIN' in large, stylized letters, with 'FULLERTON' written below it. Two men are standing at a podium in the foreground. The man on the left is wearing a blue shirt and is looking down at something in his hands. The man on the right is wearing a white shirt and a dark tie, and is looking towards the camera. The scene is lit with warm, orange-toned lights.

# Community & Events

Learn about what the community is putting on as well as events on campus

# Juneteenth

June 19th, observed as "Juneteenth", is a federal holiday that observes African American Emancipation Day across the United States. Juneteenth is the oldest nationally celebrated commemoration of the ending of slavery in America. This holiday commemorates African American freedom and pushes for achievement, reflection, and advocacy. The Male Success Initiative proudly welcomes and celebrates our African American Brothers within the program.



## Isaac Alferos

"Juneteenth to me is about celebrating the joy and resiliency in our community while simultaneously challenging us to engage with our legacy. I think this provides us as communities of color an opportunity to engage each other better, learn from each other more, and support each other more holistically."



Learn more about Isaac and his efforts in his community

# Pride Month

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June is celebrated as National Pride Month! This month is dedicated to celebrating the achievements and accomplishments of those within the LGBTQ+ community.

The Male Success initiative is a space where our LGBTQ+ brothers are welcomed to grow and thrive.

One of our Pillars of Success is Gender & Masculinity. We provide a space where discussions of sexuality and gender are safely held so that our brothers feel accomplished in discovering not only their future but themselves. This pillar means breaking down gender norms, heteronormativity, and toxic masculinity.

The Male Success Initiative is a proud ally to our LGBTQ+ brothers, and wish everyone a happy pride!



## Did You Know?

Marsha P. Johnson was a key activist in establishing LGBTQ+ rights, protesting during the Stonewall Uprising, which eventually led to the mark of the annual pride parade. Her work continues to support black, trans brothers and those within the community.



The background image shows a group of students sitting around a table in a meeting or workshop. They are wearing face masks. On the wall behind them are several posters with icons and text. One poster on the left has the text 'Student Coaching Followed Mentoring'. Another poster in the center has 'Leadership, Engagement' and 'LEAD'. A third poster to the right has 'Career Trajectory'. A fourth poster on the far right has 'Gender & Masculinity'. The overall scene is dimly lit with a warm, orange-toned overlay.

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# Student Activity

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*Hear about what our Brothers are doing on campus!*



# GET GOING WITH MSI

Hosted by Alan Ruelas



**Azaad Brar**  
MSI Alumni | Cohort 2018  
Biology

Our podcast focuses on covering the Brothers within the program. Feel connected, inspired, and empowered by hearing the multiple personalities within the space, from scholars, to fellows, to the staff!

The 15-minute interviews are available on Spotify, Youtube, and Instagram @MSIFULLERTON



Scan this for our Youtube channel!



# Student Leaders

This summer we have an amazing group of student leaders dedicated to supporting the brothers and CSU Fullerton. This team continues to bring the community into the space as we transition into a new academic year. Learn more about them below!

Get to know you question: If you could see one movie again for the first time, what would it be?



**Thomas Tran (he/him) | Computer Science**

Jurassic Park was the first movie I truly remember watching as a kid and it brings back so many nostalgic memories looking back now. I was awestruck with the visual story telling and the effects of the movie, both practical and virtual. My first time seeing a T-rex on the big screen solidified my love for dinosaurs and to relive that moment again would be unreal.



**Sebastian Rivera (he/him) | Computer Science**

I would watch Avengers: Infinity War again. The Marvel Cinematic Universe has been apart of my childhood to today, and it was so fun seeing all of my favorite characters (especially Iron Man) come together in such a good movie.





**Alexis Garcia (he/him) | Art, Political Science**

If I could watch a movie for the first time again it would have to be Interstellar. It is a very visually pleasing movie. That and Matthew McConaughey is a star. And I love me some McConaughey!



**Alan Ruelas (he/him) | Public Relations**

If I were to watch a movie for the first time again, it would be Titanic. It's full of romance and an overall good picture film. I like that era, style, and the fact that Leonardo Dicaprio is a living icon who's work is very pleasing to watch. Fun fact, I even did my hair like him in high school!



**Jaron Ramos (he/they) | Public Relations, Asian American Studies**

The movie to watch for the first time again is The Devil Wears Prada. A true icon of a movie. The movie had given my fashion awakening, and seeing the effort and dedication that goes into the fashion world is so intriguing and complex. I would love to feel that sense of girlboss attitude.





# Student Resources

*See what the campus and  
MSI offers our brothers*

# Janette L. Hyder

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## What is your definition of success?

Success is when you see the growth and development in our students and our team. It's when you see folks overcome barriers and obstacles in their life and they are able to reach milestones because of their tenacity and resiliency.

## How do you support the brothers?

I want our brothers to feel welcomed, valued, and connected. I provide holistic academic and career counseling for our Brothers; guidance on academics, selecting classes, and educating them on school policies, procedures, deadlines, and financial aid procedures regarding FAFSA, Dream Act, and financial aid awards. We discuss undergraduate planning, where I provide workshops and speakers on various topics like Graduate School 101, career building, and internships.

## How do you think MSI impacts our students?

Our team has created a welcoming and positive environment that has allowed our team to create trust among our Brothers and Team. The Impact of MSI fosters the feeling of Brotherhood and provides monetary support which is critical to retaining our Brothers in higher education, and our MSI space where brothers can study, hang out, and break bread together to continue to strengthen our family. Brothers support one another and have a healthy space to grow as student leaders, learn about themselves and their identity and culture.



**Janette L. Hyder**

Academic Counselor

# Steve Santana

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**Steve Santana**

Administrative Support  
Coordinator

## What is your definition of success?

Success is measured in many ways, but the utmost highest accomplishment is growing and developing new skills each day that would empower me in my personal life and career that would also have an impact of strength and encouragement for others to follow.

## How do you support the brothers?

I provide leadership, encouragement, moral support, personal experiences, and every possible resource available in our campus community to ensure our brothers have a college experience that prepares them academically and helps them grow and develop into unique individuals.

## How do you think MSI impacts our students?

MSI provides guidance and support to students who need a community-based environment or sense of belonging. I strongly feel the center provides that space to have those unique conversations that would overall contribute to the growth and success of each student.

# Naji Schttayeh

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## What is your definition of success?

I would define success as engagement in a continuous process of learning and growth in line with what you care about. The emphasis here is that success is a process and not a destination in which we can judge solely on an outcome (although it would be really cool if the outcome was always in our favor).

## How do you support the brothers?

I provide a bridge to university and community mental health resources. I aim to make mental health support more accessible and less stigmatized by making myself easily available. My support ranges from casual contacts to more formal services.

## How do you think MSI impacts our students?

I think MSI helps students connect with uniquely responsive access to campus resources and offers a place for the community to thrive. I know the staff work hard to foster a supportive community, but the students obviously contribute to building the community to what it is too!



**Naji Schttayeh**

CAPS Liason, Mental health  
Counselor

# George Parker

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**George Parker**  
Senior Program Coordinator

## What is your definition of success?

Success means being the person you needed when you were there. It means supporting students when they are struggling through classes or going through personal hardships. For me, success is measuring how much our brothers continue to persist through education despite all that they experience. Success is loving the process that creates greatness.

## How do you support the brothers?

I support the brothers by developing programming and intentional mentoring. I oversee some of the student leads and the student mentors. Also, I work with the staff to advocate on behalf of the students

## How do you think MSI impacts our students?

Students' success is rooted in their ability to develop both personally and professionally. This approach has been utilized time and time again to help MSI Brothers across CSU Fullerton achieve the fullness of their potential



# Diversity Initiatives and Resource Centers

The Diversity Initiatives and Resource Centers "support students by building communities that foster a sense of belonging, creating opportunities to engage in self-discovery and critical inquiry, and serving as a hub for resources in inclusive and affirming spaces."

We encourage the brothers to utilize these resources and continue creating community.



## Titan Dreamers Resource Center

TDRC provides undocumented students and those from mixed-status families with academic and emotional support, referrals to financial assistance and immigration services, information on programs and services that improve retention and graduation rates, and a comforting environment where students can connect with one another.



## Asian Pacific American Resource Center

APARC strives to unify and empower its community by serving as an academic and creative home for its students, staff, and faculty, as well as its external community links.



## Queer Resource Center

QRC aims to create an inclusive and affirming space and community for students, staff, faculty, and the broader community to explore issues related to sexual orientation, romantic orientation, and gender identity through an intersectional lens.



## African American Resource Center

AARC provides an opportunity for individuals to pursue the academic, research, and cultural interests of African Americans. It provides resources, services, programs and events that focus on the total integration and success of African American students.



## Latinx Community Resource Center

LCRC creates an inclusive environment for students to engage in history, culture, and equity issues in the Latinx community. We foster a sense of belonging while supporting the intellectual, personal, and social development of our students.

DIRC is located in  
the Pollak Library  
at PLS 180

**Monday-Friday | 8:00am - 5:00pm**

# Editor's note

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Greetings!

This spread has been fun to create. I thought it would be super cool to ask our student staff more pressing questions, like their movie experiences! Our students all have different personalities and it is so fun getting to know one another.

As a member of the LGBTQ+ community, it was imperative that I provide a notion of celebration for our brothers during Pride month. It is an amazing feeling to have a family on campus dedicated to supporting your own self-discovery, whether that be in academics or in your personal life. MSI has made me a trailblazer in my passions, and I am so proud to be on this team to continue that inspiration!

I hope everyone is having an amazing summer, and I will see you all in the fall!



**Jaron Ramos**

Student Editor | MSI Newsletter  
Newsletter approved by George Parker

A background image featuring three young men of diverse ethnicities, all dressed in professional suits and ties. The image is overlaid with a semi-transparent orange filter. The man on the left has long dark hair and wears round glasses. The man in the center has short, curly dark hair. The man on the right has short dark hair.

Achieving the Fullness of our Potential

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# Male Success Initiative

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Gordan hall 230 | Monday - Friday | 8:00am - 5:00pm

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