Cal State Fullerton Receives Nation’s Highest Honor for Community Service

Thanks to the tremendous efforts of staff and faculty to engage students in the community, Cal State Fullerton has once again received the nation’s highest honor for its commitment to community engagement. For the fifth consecutive year, we were named to the President’s Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll -- this time, “with distinction.” Titan community engagement totaled more than 1.4 million hours of service benefiting the community.

- Honors were extended to 623 universities throughout the U.S., with only 110 of those (18%) additionally recognized “with distinction.”
- In California, 47 universities were honored, and CSUF is one of just 18 to be recognized "with distinction."
- Fifteen CSU campuses were honored, and CSUF is one of only 7 recognized "with distinction."

A portion of the 1.4 million hours comes directly from Student Affairs related programs and services. The Volunteer & Service Center regularly engages students through its community service projects that focus on children, the environment, hunger and homelessness, blood donation, special needs students, and social justice programming. Clubs and organizations made up another portion of the hours with both service and non-service related clubs contributing a great deal of time to serving the community.

The Greek community has a great emphasis on philanthropy and their diverse chapter-level and combined all-Greek efforts made a great contribution to the application. In addition, the Student Leadership Institute’s experiential component comprised another set of hours as many students seeking their certificate participated in service-related activities to fulfill this requirement.

A portion of Cal State Fullerton’s outstanding grant funded programs serving the K-12 population, including Upward Bound, Talent Search and GEAR UP, factored in, as well as the Chicano Resource Center which is a partnership between Student Affairs and Academic Affairs. Athletics and the Residence Halls also have an ongoing dedication to service that was included in the total hours. Finally, Associated Students, Inc.’s efforts to serve the community through Camp Titan and the Titan Toy Drive also demonstrated Cal State Fullerton’s work to help those in need.

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The 2012 spring semester opened with enthusiasm and a positive energy thanks to the efforts of the Student Affairs Family’s hard work and support of our students. Given the extraordinary challenging times we find ourselves in, you have all remained committed to ensuring we meet our obligation of a quality educational experience for all students. Even in these difficult times, rest assured that my goal is to continue to do everything possible to keep the Division focused on retention, graduation, and equity for all students.

Our Division continues to provide leadership and participation on a number of campus-wide efforts such as the University Strategic Planning Committee, successful grant writing such as the California State University, Fullerton Upward Bound Program, which received a grant in the amount of $362,250.00, and the recent acknowledgement of our assessment activities as noted by the WASC visitation team.

Your voice remains critical in campus discussions as we move forward and define what Fullerton will look like as an institution in the coming years. As we prepare for a transition in leadership with the arrival of Dr. Mildred García as our fifth President, I encourage you all to take advantage of opportunities to speak out for Student Affairs and to provide leadership within the Division and across campus.

Once again, thank you for your efforts on behalf of Student Affairs as we head for that special time of the year, commencement.

Sincerely,

Silas H. Abrego, Ed.D.
Interim Vice President for Student Affairs
California State University, Fullerton

STUDENT AFFAIRS Mission Statement

Student Affairs enhances and supports the academic mission of the University. The Student Affairs mission encompasses the dual paradigms of student development and student services and includes building alliances between the classroom and other aspects of campus life. As a partner in the educational enterprise, Student Affairs contributes to the comprehensive educational experience of students. Through myriad services, programs and activities, the intellectual, vocational, personal, social, and cultural development of all students is encouraged. Through these programs and services, students are assisted in acquiring the knowledge, skills and insights that facilitate life-long learning, a sense of personal and interpersonal competence and human understanding.

As a resource for students, administration, faculty, staff, alumni and the broader community, Student Affairs provides a wide variety of university services. These services meet the needs of students as they progress through their college experience and also include problem solving, research assistance and consultation. With a diverse and comprehensive set of responsibilities, Student Affairs contributes to the campus community a special perspective about students, their experience, and the campus environment.
Titan Parents

Marisa Perez
Coordinator, Parent Programs
New Student Programs
Photo Credit: Serena Cline

Titan Parents is dedicated to serving parents and families of Cal State Fullerton students, and has been actively growing over the past few years. Fall 2011 brought many exciting enhancements including the hiring of a full-time staff member, the 3rd annual Jazz & Dessert Night, and a newly improved Titan Parents website. Increased visibility across campus and within the parent community has helped these programs expand to include more areas of involvement, such as legislative advocacy and the sponsoring of student scholarships.

In spring 2012, the Titan Parents Association proudly awarded its first four $500 scholarships to Cal State Fullerton undergraduate students through the generous support of parents and family members of CSUF students. As fundraising efforts continue to improve, Titan Parents will be able to award more scholarships for the 2012-2013 academic year and support additional student success initiatives.

Our exclusive events for parents and families continue to garner high interest and attendance. The “Nuts and Bolts of Legislative Advocacy” event that took place in November 2011 brought parents together to learn about their role in advocating for the CSU system. Parents left the event feeling informed and energized to actively support CSU education. In February 2012, parents returned to campus for the 5th annual Homecoming festival and basketball game. They proudly wore Titan Parents buttons and engaged with fellow parents and families.

Cal State Fullerton looks forward to building more connections with Titan parents. Please visit www.fullerton.edu/titanparents for the latest information about our upcoming events and scholarship opportunities.
Putting Education To Work: Employer Advice to CSU Students

Jim Case
Director, Career Center
Photo Provided by Career Center

In October and November 2011, Career Centers from 20 campuses of the California State University conducted a statewide survey of 978 employers who recruit CSU students for professional postgraduate positions. The Career Center at Fullerton conducted this research, using the Campus Labs/Student Voice system, with the assistance of a leadership group of Career Directors throughout the state.

Employers identified seven key hiring factors (in order of importance) in this survey:

- Capability to learn what is necessary to be effective in their assignments
- Oral communication
- Teamwork
- Flexibility to respond to changing work demands
- Potential to contribute to the future success of their organization
- Written communication
- Leadership potential

Employers were also asked how the CSU graduates they hired performed in comparison to all college and University graduates they had hired over the past three years.

Employers identified four distinctive qualities of CSU graduates who performed significantly above the overall pool of college graduates they had hired:

1. Teamwork
2. Flexibility to respond to changing work demands
3. Capability to learn what is necessary to be effective in their assignments
4. Representing the diversity of the emerging workplace

Employers also identified two factors where the performance of CSU graduates is weaker than the typical recent college graduate they have hired:

1. Written Communication Skills
2. Global Skills

These employer responses essentially define both positive and negative aspects of what might be called the CSU Graduating Student Brand. A brand can be defined as the expectations and qualities that are associated with a product or service. In this case it is the expectations employers bring concerning the likely performance of the students they hire from CSU campuses.

In addition to sharing these employer insights with students throughout the CSU system, the Career Center has encouraged students to activate the positive aspects of this brand by interjecting appropriate examples of their accomplishments and abilities as they communicate with employers. Simultaneously, students are encouraged to counteract the negative aspects of their brand by strengthening their writing and global skills throughout their academic program and being prepared to interject appropriate examples of these skills from their experiences as they communicate with employers.

Jim Case, the Director of the Career Center, and principle researcher for the project, encourages students to understand that all aspects of their student experience, including extracurricular experience, internships, student employment, and community service contribute to building the skills that employers find most important as their hire students for internships or full-time professional employment: “Almost all employers are seeking to hire graduates who possess the skills which are reported in this survey. Graduates from the CSU are clearly seen as future leaders who possess these skills, as well as the knowledge and abilities that employers are seeking as they grow our economy and serve the citizens of California.”

For more information, including a ready-to-print summary of this Employer Advice to CSU Students, as well as a complete summary of the full report, please follow this link: http://www.fullerton.edu/crew/projects/assessingValue.shtml

“Almost all employers are seeking to hire graduates who possess the skills which are reported in this survey. Graduates from the CSU are clearly seen as future leaders who possess these skills, as well as the knowledge and abilities that employers are seeking as they grow our economy and serve the citizens of California.” - Jim Case
Volunteers of the National Guard “Cold” Armory:

Wendy Babiano, Director of Communication for the College of Health and Human Development InterClub Council (HHD-ICC)
Ashley Mendoza, Graduate Assistant
Photo Provided by HHD-ICC

On Friday evening, February 3rd, members of the College of Health and Human Development InterClub Council served as volunteers at the National Guard “Cold” Armory. Instead of the usual canned food drive and fundraising that clubs and/or organizations arrange in this cold and generous season, the council really wanted to do something different and more personal by preparing and serving a warm, delicious dinner for about 150 participants at the Armory.

Individuals who contribute in various forms of donations normally do not get to see the reactions of those receiving their efforts; but through this experience, we had the opportunity to meet and greet the people that we helped, and it was rewarding to watch our hard work unfold. It eased our minds to see that at least one night of their lives was more comfortable due to our volunteerism. These moments will definitely stay with us much longer than a canned/clothing drive.

Michael Bergeron (Representative for the Graduate Council Student Association), was the person who made this all possible. He’s been helping and serving food for the “Cold” Armory for about four years. He shared “the first time I heard those sleeping mats hit the floor that was it. That was when I realized these mats were really all these folks had. It’s an enlightening experience, and you feel blessed that you even have a roof to sleep under, and how much more for a car to drive around in.” Michael had our group meet at his church where we were able to use the kitchen to make pasta with meatballs and sauce, salad, breadsticks and the most decadent cupcakes you’ve ever tasted. We whisked the hot food to the armory to serve at 7 pm.

Amber Findling (Rep for MSWA) stated that she definitely wants to start something similar to this with her group and continue to do more with the Inter-Club Council. “The one thing that individuals from the “Cold” Armory usually don’t have are socks: the council and other groups can definitely collaborate to help out in that area.”

Overall, this experience was a great example of co-curricular activity, because we gained a better understanding of our community needs and what we can do to make a difference. It was a wonderful event for everyone; not only because it gave the council a chance to work together outside of the University, but also an important way to help others directly.
Titan Excellence Award Recipients
December 2011

Photo Credit: Yvette T. Espinosa

Kevin Nye
Records Supervisor, Financial Aid
Nominator: Jenny Phu, Assistant Director, Financial Aid

Kathryn Morrissey
Study Abroad Advisor
Nominator: Lay Tuan Tan, Director, International Education & Exchange

Rachel Lynch
Associate Budget Analyst
Nominator: Dr. Ryan Alcantara, Associate Vice President, Finance, H.R., & Technology

Consider nominating your colleague today! Student Affairs Titan Excellence Award (TEA) Months are November and April. Nominations are accepted year round.

If you would like more information, please visit the TEA website at: http://hr.fullerton.edu/TitanExcellence/Default.aspx

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Photo Provided by Volunteer & Service Center
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All of these Student Affairs efforts, when combined with other voluntary service done throughout the university and the remarkable number of course-related hours completed through academic internships, service-learning, externships, fieldwork, practicum, and so on, led to this great accomplishment. Cal State Fullerton is truly a university committed to community engagement and this prestigious award is welcome recognition of our hard work.

The entire Honor Roll list is available at http://www.nationalservice.gov/honorroll/ along with descriptions of the top honorees and other information. To see Cal State Fullerton’s listing, open the file "with distinction."

Thanks to our partners in the Center for Internships & Community Engagement, in particular Kathleen Costello, for taking the time to compile our campus’ application each year. If you know of anything that should be considered for inclusion in the campus’ total number of hours next year and are able to help with the collection of those hours, please contact Kathleen. We are always looking to capture as many hours as possible, but need everyone’s help to make this a reality!
New Book Co-Authored by Dr. Howard S. Wang, Associate Vice President

Howard S. Wang, Ph.D.
Associate Vice President for Student Affairs
Executive Director, Student Health & Counseling Center
Photos Provided by NASPA & NYU


The first chapter of the book is co-authored by Dr. Howard S. Wang, Associate Vice President for Student Affairs, and Dr. Robert T. Teranishi. This chapter is entitled Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (AAPI) Background and Statistics: Perspectives on the Representation and Inclusion of AAPI Faculty, Staff, and Student Affairs Professionals.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, by the year 2050, the AAPI population in the United States is expected to more than double. Recent reports indicate that more AAPI students are experiencing difficulties attaining academic success in colleges and universities than in the past.

Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders in Higher Education: Research and Perspectives on Identity, Leadership, and Success presents a compilation of statistical reports, research findings, and experiential accounts that counters the lack of information about this population. Although the community of AAPI students and professionals in higher education is relatively small, it is significant and diverse. The model minority stereotype has cloaked the very real struggles and challenges this population faces on college and university campuses. It has resulted in AAPIs being largely invisible or excluded from conversations, research, and policies related to diversity and equity in higher education.

The authors, who represent a wide range of institutional experiences throughout the United States, probe deeply and challenge current perceptions, even among those within the group. Through the authors’ research and narratives, the book gives voice and visibility to AAPI students and student affairs professionals. Some chapters are written in the context of racial history, power, and hierarchy in society and campuses consistent with Critical Race Theory and race formation scholarship.

Policy makers and responsible campuses must prepare themselves to address the underrepresentation and projected growth of AAPIs as a group and for specific AAPI subgroups in higher education. This essential book will help faculty, administrators, and educational policy makers who seek to advance learning outcomes for students of all ethnicities and strengthen the position of AAPI student affairs professionals. Such action will invigorate the effectiveness and success of colleges and universities that aspire to achieve true diversity and inclusion.

For more information contact NASPA:
http://bookstore.naspa.org • P: 301-638-1749 • F: 202-898-5737 • E-mail: naspa@tasco1.com

“The book fills a significant gap in our knowledge and understanding of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders. It showcases not just the strengths but also the vulnerabilities of a fast-growing and significant segment of our society.”

—A. Gabriel Esteban, President, Seton Hall University
Cultural Recognition Ceremonies 2012
Carmen Curiel
Director, Multicultural Leadership Center
Photos Provided by the Multicultural Leadership Center

Each year, the University hosts cultural commencement ceremonies. These events complement the University Commencement by adding a unique multicultural dimension that celebrates our diverse student population and honors our graduates and their families. Leadership for these ceremonies is provided by faculty and staff associations, student leaders, clubs and organizations, and cultural resource centers.

10th Asian and Pacific Islander Graduate Recognition Ceremony
Saturday, May 5, 2012, 2:00 pm – 4:00 pm • Pavilions ABC
Sponsored by the Asian American and Pacific Islander Faculty and Staff Association, Asian American Studies Program, and the Multicultural Leadership Center.

8th LGBT Pride Recognition Ceremony
Thursday, May 10, 2012, 7:00 pm – 9:00 pm • Pavilion A
Sponsored by the Multicultural Leadership Center.

13th Pilipino American Graduation Celebration
Friday, May 11, 2012, 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm • Pavilions ABC
Sponsored by the Pilipino American Student Association (PASA), Pilipino Graduation Committee (P-Grad), and the Multicultural Leadership Center.

24th Pan-African Student Recognition Ceremony
Saturday, May 12, 2012, 12:00 pm – 2:00 pm • Engineering and Computer Science Lawn
Sponsored by the African American Faculty and Staff Association, Afro-Ethnic Studies Department, the African American Resource Center, and the Multicultural Leadership Center.

24th Chicano/Latino and Native American Graduation Celebration
Saturday, May 12, 2012, 5:30 pm • Titan Student Union, Pavilions
Sponsored by the Chicano/Latino Faculty and Staff Association.

For further information regarding the cultural ceremonies, please contact:
Multicultural Leadership Center • (657) 278-7366 • multiculturalcenter@fullerton.edu • TSU-234