SEARCH PROSPECTUS:

Vice President of Information Technology and Chief Information Officer (VPIT-CIO)

Cal State Fullerton

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Cal State Fullerton is seeking a forward-thinking IT leader who can drive innovation, align technology with institutional goals, and champion digital transformation in higher education. The ideal candidate will lead a best-in-class IT organization, empowering students and faculty through immersive, inclusive, and future-ready technology solutions.

Founded in 1957, Cal State Fullerton is a community of approximately 139,000 people located in Fullerton, CA, 30 miles southeast of Central Los Angeles. About 43,000 students were enrolled in fall 2024, the majority of whom live in Orange County.

Cal State Fullerton is a leading campus of the CSU system, serving as an intellectual and cultural center for Southern California and a driver of workforce and economic development. We are an emerging national model for broadening access to higher education for the diverse student population in the region and beyond, and for supporting student success through innovative high-impact educational experiences and student support programs.

Cal State Fullerton embraces a very diverse community, with over 40 nations represented in the student body. CSUF is designated as a Hispanic Serving Institution and an Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander Serving Institution. Excelencia in Education, a nonprofit and national authority on Latinx student success, recertified Cal State Fullerton in 2024 with the Seal of Excelencia through 2027, a prestigious certification awarded to U.S. institutions that strive to go beyond Latinx student enrollment and intentionally elevate their students' success. Cal State Fullerton is one of nine institutions to earn recertification in 2024.

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 1,166 full-time and 1,162 part-time faculty members, as well as 1,991 staff members (fall 2024).

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 a rich diversity of 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 2024, CSUF enrolled record-high number of students of over 43,000. 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 social justice; to become catalysts for equity 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, systemic 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 Vice President of Strategic Enrollment Management.

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.

FACILITIES

The California State University, Fullerton campus includes approximately 110 permanent buildings, featuring student housing for about 2,200 residents and a recently renovated Titan Dining Hall. Recent developments include two buildings in the Visual Arts Complex, which added gallery and classroom spaces along with renovations to an existing structure, a 600-bed suite-style student housing facility, a parking structure, and an Olympic-sized pool.

- **Student Housing Phase 5**: A 512-bed apartment-style complex, currently under construction.
- **Engineering and Computer Science Innovation Hub:** A 42,000 square foot state-of-the-art facility in the design phase.
- **Landmark Hall – Center for Leadership:** A 20,000 square foot donor-funded building in the design phase.

The main campus core includes Mihaylo Hall, McCarthy Hall, Dan Black Hall, Humanities, Gordon Hall, and Langsdorf Hall, surrounded by key academic buildings: Titan Gym, Kinesiology and Health Sciences, Education Classroom, the Engineering and Computer Science Complex, and the Visual and Performing Arts Complex. Supporting academic buildings are the Titan Student Union, Bookstore, Charles L. and Rachel E. Ruby Gerontology Center (home to the Center for Successful Aging), Student Health and Counseling Center, Titan Hall, and other utility buildings. The 10-story College Park building on Nutwood Avenue hosts the College of Communications and the College of Education, providing additional classroom and office space. The campus also features four parking structures, with a total capacity of 7,323 spaces and total approximately 12,425 vehicles. Through the Associated Students, Inc., Fullerton offers an accredited child development center on campus.

The Arboretum and Botanical Garden at California State University, 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.

SUSTAINABILITY INITIATIVES

Cal State Fullerton is committed to sustainability and has received its first Platinum Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certification from the U.S. Green Building Council for the Student Housing Complex Phase 3. Recent sustainability initiatives include installing a solar-energy network on the rooftops of parking structures, the Kinesiology and Health Science (KHS) building, and the Clayes Performing Arts Center (CPAC), totaling approximately 4,777 kilowatts, with an additional 106 kilowatts planned. This clean-energy project is projected to generate 1.16 megawatt-hours of electricity annually, reducing greenhouse gas emissions by over 700 metric tons each year and saving an estimated $9 million in utility costs over the next 25 years.

Cal State Fullerton is proud to:

- Empower graduates to become leaders in innovative climate solutions, as reflected in the multidisciplinary poster presentations addressing sustainability and climate action across the curriculum at the annual Energy and Sustainability Summit.
- Be a Second Nature Carbon Commitment signatory and integrate sustainability across academics and operations.
- Be a charter member of the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE) with a STARS Gold rating.
- Be recognized as a top performer in water management in the 2024 Sustainable Campus Index, achieving a 27% reduction in water use from infrastructure and landscaping initiatives.
- Offer 100 electric vehicle (EV) charging spaces through the Southern California Edison Charge Ready Program, helping reduce greenhouse gas emissions by up to 8,300 pounds per day for a cleaner tomorrow.

The Associated Students Inc., CSUF provides student development opportunities through leadership, volunteer, and employment experiences. In addition, the Associated Students provides campus community members with important social, cultural, and recreational opportunities, as well as a wide range of programs and services. CSUF recognizes that many of the people who wish to attend the university are parents of young children, and to attend classes, these students must arrange for affordable, quality childcare. Therefore, the CSUF Children's Center has been established and operated with Associated Student Inc. funds, for the purpose of making the educational opportunities at the university equally accessible to these parents of young children.

The Arboretum and Botanical Garden at Cal State Fullerton provides academic experiences for each of the eight colleges, offering a teaching and learning platform spanning 26 acres with opportunities for research, internships, service-learning, thesis exhibits/presentations, and capstone projects.

STUDENT ACTIVITIES

Student Affairs and college programs contribute to an active student co-curriculum, including opportunities for community service, recreation, arts and culture, professional development, and continuous learning to foster the whole student experience.

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 CSUF Athletics Department consists of a broad range of competitive sports for both male and female student athletes, providing them with the opportunity to obtain a college degree while also representing CSUF Athletics both regionally and nationally. CSUF offers 18 NCAA Division I sports, including baseball, men's and women's basketball, men's and women's cross country, men's and women's golf, men's and women's soccer, softball, women's tennis, men's and women's indoor and outdoor track and field, women's volleyball, men's and women's water polo and men's and women's Spirit Squad. Approximately 385 student-athletes directly participate on these teams.

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.
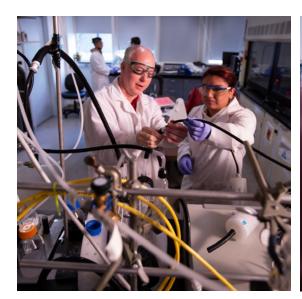
PRIVATE SUPPORT

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 our communities 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 (OLLI), Patrons of the Library, Reading Educators Guild, Titan Advocates, and Titan Athletics Council.

ABOUT THE INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY DIVISION

The Information Technology (IT) Division at California State University, Fullerton is a strategic and innovative partner in advancing the university's mission of student success, teaching, and research. IT provides robust, secure, and forward-thinking technological solutions that enhance the academic experience, streamline administrative processes, and foster a connected campus community.

Key Functions & Services
- Enterprise Systems & Infrastructure – Ensuring the reliability, security, and scalability of university-wide IT services, including network infrastructure, cloud computing, and cybersecurity.
- Academic & Learning Technologies – Supporting faculty and students with state-of-the-art instructional technology, online learning tools, and classroom enhancements.
- Digital Transformation & Innovation – Implementing cutting-edge technologies, process automation, and emerging trends to enhance operational efficiency.
- User Support & Engagement – Providing comprehensive IT support, training, and customer service to students, faculty, and staff.

Technology for Success
Cal State Fullerton's Information Technology services power success for students, faculty, and staff by offering a wide range of tools and resources, including:
- Cutting-edge innovations such as AI-powered tools, 3D printing, and immersive technology for curricular and co-curricular instruction.
- Essential technology access through free software (Adobe Creative Cloud, Microsoft Office), device checkouts, and professional headshots.
- Specialized resources like the Data Visualization Center, enabling students and faculty to create impactful presentations and data-driven projects.
- The Center for Equitable Digital Access (CEDA) is committed to fostering full inclusion by ensuring all students have access to a comprehensive technology ecosystem. Through the TitanWare program, CEDA provides devices, training, and support to bridge the digital divide and enhance student success.

Academic & Student Support Services
- Academic Technology Center (ATC) – Supporting faculty with technology, training, and reservable collaboration spaces.
- Student Genius Center (SGC) – Located in Pollak Library, the SGC provides students with tech assistance, device checkouts, and digital literacy support.
- Digital Print Services (DPS) – Offering high-quality printing services, including posters, brochures, business cards, and booklets.

Innovation & AI Integration
CSUF IT is committed to digital transformation and innovation. The university has introduced TitanGPT, a secure and campus-supported AI tool powered by ChatGPT-4o. This cutting-edge resource enables students, faculty, and staff to brainstorm ideas, draft documents, and summarize information while ensuring data security.

Commitment to Excellence & Future Growth
The IT Division is dedicated to seamlessly integrating technology into campus operations, ensuring that services, equipment, and software are tailored to meet the evolving needs of students, faculty, and staff. By fostering a culture of innovation, security, and digital empowerment, IT supports the university's mission through key initiatives, including:

- Cybersecurity Awareness & Education – Hosting annual Cybersecurity Month campaigns to promote best practices in digital security.
- Thought Leadership & Collaboration – Engaging the campus community with keynote speakers, webinars, and vendor partnerships that explore emerging technologies and IT trends.
- Continuous Learning & Professional Development – Offering technology events, hands-on training, and skill-building opportunities to equip students, faculty, and staff with the tools they need to succeed in a rapidly evolving digital landscape.

Through these efforts, IT remains committed to enhancing digital literacy, accessibility, and security, ensuring that CSUF remains at the forefront of technological advancement in higher education.

JOB SUMMARY

Reporting directly to the President, the Vice President for Information Technology (VPIT) and Chief Information Officer (CIO) serves as the senior IT executive for the university, playing a critical role in shaping and executing the university's technology vision. The VPIT/CIO provides strategic leadership, operational oversight, and forward-looking innovation across all campus technology domains, including infrastructure, academic technology, cybersecurity, and digital transformation.

This role is pivotal in driving digital transformation to enhance the university's academic, administrative, and community-focused initiatives, while ensuring robust cybersecurity measures and compliance with regulatory standards. By leveraging data-driven decision-making, modernizing technology systems, and fostering innovation, the VPIT/CIO positions the university as a leader in educational technology and operational excellence.

The VPIT/CIO collaborates with university leadership, faculty, staff, and external partners to support strategic priorities. This includes advancing academic innovation through hybrid and online learning technologies, driving efficiency through integrated systems, and representing the university in system-wide and national IT conversations to build partnerships that secure extramural funding and promote institutional growth.

PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITIES

Strategic Leadership
- Provide visionary leadership to drive the university's digital transformation strategy.
- Collaborate with senior leaders to develop and execute IT strategies that align with institutional goals and global best practices.
- Foster a culture of innovation and adaptability, ensuring the university is equipped to embrace emerging technologies.
- Position the university as a leader in leveraging technology for academic and operational excellence.

Technology Infrastructure and Operations
- Oversee the development and optimization of scalable, secure, and resilient IT infrastructure, including cloud computing and next-generation networks.
- Lead the integration of advanced automation tools, artificial intelligence, and data analytics into administrative and academic workflows.
- Ensure seamless and reliable IT services across all university operations to meet current and future demands.

Academic Technology and Innovation
- Partner with Academic Affairs to support innovative teaching, learning, and research initiatives through technology.
- Champion the adoption of cutting-edge educational technologies, including virtual and augmented reality, adaptive learning platforms, and AI-driven tools.
- Enhance faculty and student success by ensuring access to intuitive, state-of-the-art digital resources and professional development opportunities.

Cybersecurity and Data Governance
- Act as the Chief Information Security Officer, leading a comprehensive cybersecurity strategy to protect institutional assets.
- Implement advanced data governance practices, leveraging artificial intelligence to enhance data security and accessibility.
- Build a campus-wide culture of cybersecurity awareness, providing training and resources to minimize risks.

Collaboration and Partnership
- Cultivate relationships with external organizations, industry leaders, and community stakeholders to advance IT goals and secure funding.
- Represent the university in regional, national, and global technology forums to advocate for higher education technology priorities.
- Build strategic partnerships to promote research, innovation, and workforce development in collaboration with external entities.

Policy Development and Governance
- Develop forward-thinking IT policies that emphasize sustainability, inclusivity, and innovation.
- Lead governance structures to ensure alignment of IT investments with institutional goals.
- Promote data-driven decision-making across all organizational levels, ensuring continuous improvement.

QUALIFICATIONS

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS

- Master's degree in Information Technology, Computer Science, Business Administration, or a related field.
- Five (5) years of progressive IT leadership experience, preferably in higher education.
- Demonstrated expertise in strategic planning, project management, and technology implementation.
- Strong knowledge of cybersecurity, data governance, and regulatory compliance.
- Proven ability to lead diverse teams and foster an inclusive work environment.
- Excellent communication, interpersonal, and problem-solving skills.

PREFERRED QUALIFICATIONS

- Doctorate degree in a related field.
- Experience working within a large, multi-campus university system, such as the California State University system.
- Knowledge of emerging technologies in higher education, including artificial intelligence, cloud computing, and learning management systems.
- Record of securing external funding or grants to support technology initiatives.

LEADERSHIP COMPETENCIES:

- Visionary leadership and the ability to inspire and motivate diverse teams.
- Commitment to student success, equity, and access.
- Strong analytical skills and data-driven decision-making.
- Ability to manage complex projects and prioritize competing demands.
- Adaptability to changing technological landscapes and institutional needs.

APPLICATION PROCESS

If you are interested in confidentially learning more about this opportunity, please reach out to Phenicia McCullough, Vice President for Human Resources, Diversity and Inclusion, at (657) 278-8213 or, if more convenient, schedule an introductory call by emailing hr@fullerton.edu. Applications can be submitted in confidence at https://www.fullerton.edu/leadership. Those applications received by Thursday, April 10, 2025 by 9:00 PM (Pacific Standard Time)/midnight (Eastern Standard Time) will be assured full consideration. A complete application will include a cover letter addressing the qualifications above, curriculum vitae, an Inclusive Leadership Statement, and the names, e-mail addresses, and phone numbers of five references. References will not be contacted without explicit permission from the candidate.

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