

SPRING 2020

TRANSFORMING TITANS

Fall Semester 2019 Highlights



Dear Colleagues,

The Spring 2020 semester is here and I am excited that classes are underway. I hope each of you enjoyed a restful Winter Break and a productive start to the new year because we have a full few months ahead of us. Between our on-going campus-climate work, student-support efforts, leadership searches, and day-to-day responsibilities, this spring semester abounds with growth opportunities for the Division of Student Affairs.

Before we get too far down the road, though, I want to thank you again for your outstanding service to our campus community. We navigated an eventful Fall 2019 incredibly well, and I saw first-hand why Cal State Fullerton's Division of Student Affairs is a national leader. Our team here is second to none, and I believe that your accomplishments should be documented and preserved for years to come. As such, I present to you the latest edition of *Transforming Titans* – a chronological overview of milestone moments from the previous semester. I encourage everyone to find time to read and reflect on the work from last semester, using it as inspiration for the busy season ahead. Cheers to an excellent spring semester that is in front of us!

Sincerely,

Harry Le Grande
Vice President
Division of Student Affairs



Life is Le Grande for Student Affairs
 Aug. 13, 2019
 Harry Le Grande, Vice Chancellor Emeritus of UC Berkeley and a nationally-recognized leader in Student Affairs, was

appointed as the newest Vice President for Student Affairs at Cal State Fullerton. His term began on August 26 and will continue through June 30, 2020. VP Le Grande served UC Berkeley for nearly 35 years, roughly 10 of which he was Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs. In that position, he led 19 administrative units and oversaw an annual operating budget of more than a quarter of a billion dollars. Retiring from UC Berkeley in 2016 – but unretiring shortly thereafter because of an unremitting desire to serve the next generation of students – he came to CSUF following successful interim terms at California State University, San Bernardino and Sonoma State University.



Home Away from Home: Housing & Residential Engagement Hosts Move-In Day
 Aug. 21, 2019
 With suitcases, boxes and shopping bags filled with their belongings – from clothes to bedding and school

supplies – about 2,000 new and returning students made Cal State Fullerton their home away from home for the 2019-20 academic year. Students moved into the residence halls August 21 – 22, and of the university's new residents, about 1,200 were incoming freshmen and 800 were returning and community college transfer students. About 900 of these students opted to live within themed housing communities, based on such areas as their major, common interests, academic goals or personal identity.



Titan Spirit Soars at Convocation With Help from Student Affairs
 Sept. 5, 2019
 Billed as *The Day You Become a Titan*, 2019 Convocation was an unforgettable experience that first year

students, faculty, and staff can point to as the day that they were ceremoniously welcomed in to the Cal State Fullerton family. The event kicked off with a rousing start as President Fram Virjee and wife, Julie, student Imani Garner, alumna Asia Scott ('19), and the Titan Spirit Squad danced their way to the front of the gymnasium. Along with President Virjee and Titan alumni, Aaron Aguilar, Associated Students Inc., CSUF (ASI), President, Mansi Kalra, ASI Vice President, and Vice President for Student Affairs Harry Le Grande addressed the crowd. "I'm excited to join other new faculty, staff and students on this day we become Titans," VP Le Grande said.



Student Affairs Executive Honored by Congressman
 Sept. 16, 2019
 Tonantzin Oseguera, Associate Vice President for Student Affairs, was honored by Rep. Gil Cisneros during

Hispanic Heritage Month for her efforts toward advancing Latinx representation in the local communities. AVP Oseguera was recognized by the 39th District of California after receiving a nomination from her colleagues. "As a proud Latino in our community, it's an honor to celebrate the important contributions that Hispanic Americans have made to our great nation during Hispanic Heritage Month," said Rep. Gil Cisneros.



Center for Scholars Supports Student Learning, Leadership and Personal Growth
 Sept. 17, 2019
 President's Scholars and Guardian Scholars were welcomed to campus at a formal

gathering hosted by President Fram Virjee and his wife, Julie. "This is your home, you are welcome here," President Virjee told the scholars. "We are your Titan family." In Fall 2019, 43 current and former foster youth joined the Guardian Scholars program, in which 15 of the incoming students received full-ride scholarships. The remainder of the scholars have access to the myriad of support services and resources the program offers.



Fiesta en la Calle: CSUF and Diversity Initiatives & Resource Centers Celebrate Hispanic/Latinx Heritage
 Sept. 18, 2019
 Billed as President Fram Virjee's "block party," students,

faculty and staff celebrated the Hispanic/Latinx cultures as they danced to Marc Anthony's "Vivir Mi Vida," jumped in for an impromptu "Payaso del Rodeo" line dance and watched the upbeat and vibrant performances by Ballet Folklorico de CSUF. Block party-goers ate empanadas, were wowed by a spoken word artist, made colorful paper flowers and painted their faces, a tradition for cultural events like Dia de los Muertos and Carnaval. The celebration commemorated Hispanic/Latinx Heritage Month. As said by Ariana Mora Mero, Chicana and Chicano Resource Center Coordinator: "It's a month to celebrate our history, culture and the vital presence of our community."



Athletics Academic Services Opens Renovated Space for Student-Athletes
 Sept. 25, 2019
 Cal State Fullerton Athletics Academic Services opened newly renovated

space for student-athletes to use as an academic and advising center. The DEGREE (Division I, Eligibility, Graduation, Retention, Engage, Empower) Program and advising offices provide proactive support for potential academic progress rate concerns and a structured learning environment. DEGREE also provides objective-based study time, along with intentional academic mentoring and tutoring. "We are very proud of the newly renovated academic space for our student-athletes," Director of Athletics Jim Donovan said.



Love Wins During LGBTQ History Month
 Oct. 3, 2019
 For the first time in Cal State Fullerton's history, a "Rainbow Pride Flag" was raised in a special ceremony in celebration of LGBTQ

History Month and National Coming Out Week. The flag raising featured student speaker Elsie Venegas, President of Queer/Trans People of Color Collective student organization, President Fram Virjee and Clint-Michael Reneau, Associate Vice President for Student Affairs. "On this day the community celebrates our beauty in being LGBTQ, but also expresses love and support to those whose coming out stories may not have been as welcoming as we would have hoped," said Nat Betancourt, Coordinator of the LGBT Queer Resource Center. Along with this historic event, the LGBT Queer Resource Center hosted several other events throughout the month.



Tuffy's Graduation Scholars Builds Community of Diverse First-Year Students
Oct. 13, 2019

To rally a sense of community, belonging and Titan pride, Tuffy's Graduation Scholars — incoming

freshmen, with many, the first in their families to go to college — attended a campus reception in their honor. The crowd of first-year students and their parents was greeted by President Fram Virjee; Clint-Michael Reneau, Associate Vice President for Student Affairs; and Melissa Romo, Assistant Dean for Student Affairs, who oversees Tuffy's Graduation Scholars. "Know that you are never alone in this journey," said AVP Reneau. "We are here with you. You will have the tools, the resources and the support to succeed at Cal State Fullerton."



4,000 Students Gather at CSUF for Games to Celebrate Friendship, Spirit, Pride and Unity
Oct. 19, 2019

About 4,000 students from colleges and universities in California, Nevada and

Arizona came together on the CSUF athletic fields for a day of dancing, chanting, skits and games of skill at the 34th annual Friendship Games. The games, hosted since 1985 by the CSUF Pilipinx-American Student Association, offer "a chance to unite with one another and be proud to be Filipino and to celebrate Pilipinx History month," according to Jeremy Rembulat, a coordinator for the Friendship Games.



'Southwest Asian North African Week' Celebrated through APARC
Oct. 21, 2019

To celebrate the Southwest Asian North African community (SWANA), the Asian Pacific American Resource

Center, in partnership with the Students for Justice in Palestine, the Lebanese Social Club and the Iranian Student Association, hosted a week of activities in October. "The SWANA Week celebration is a way for students, and faculty and staff members, who identify with, and are part of this community, to come together, find each other, celebrate their culture and educate the Cal State Fullerton campus," said Jacob B. Chacko, Coordinator of the Asian Pacific American Resource Center. The first SWANA Week was held on campus in the 2018-19 academic year.



LGBTQ Community Celebrates 'Chosen Families': President's Reception Loud and Proud
Oct. 22, 2019

Students and other campus members celebrated LGBTQ History Month with

pride at a reception at the Golleher Alumni House. Special guest fêi hernandez, a writer, artist and healer, gave a performance of poetry, with remarks by Nat Betancourt, Coordinator of the LGBT Queer Resource Center, Eric Gonzaba, Assistant Professor of American Studies, and President Virjee. "Hate, homophobia, transphobia and racism exist and plague our society and communities every day. As a community we promote love and the acceptance and affirmation of all individuals and the many identities that they hold," said Betancourt.



Disability Support Services Shines During Disability Awareness Day

Oct. 23, 2019
Disability Support Services celebrated the 4th Annual Disability Awareness Day in October.

Open to campus members and the public, the event featured guest speakers, a disability history exhibit, a student talent show, pet therapy and a resource fair. “This event celebrates our community’s diversity, inclusivity and pride,” said Lori Palmerton, Director of Disability Support Services. Guest speakers included President Fram Virjee, Associate Vice President for Student Affairs Clint-Michael Reneau, and Associate Vice President for Student Affairs Vincent Vigil, and students. The talent show featured 10 student performers, including dancers, singers, artists and a poet.



‘Breaking Gender Stereotypes in Violence Prevention’ Focus of Conference

Oct. 25, 2019
Cal State Fullerton’s WoMen’s and Adult Reentry Center hosted the 20th Annual Violence

Prevention Conference, featuring keynote speaker Carlos Andrés Gómez, author of the memoir “Man Up: Reimagining Modern Manhood.” The theme of the conference was “(MEN)toring for Change: Breaking Gender Stereotypes in Violence Prevention,” which was free and open to the public. Attendees of the conference were able to participate in workshops and take part in transformative, educational conversations.



Cross Country Team Runs into the History Books

Nov 4., 2019
The Cal State Fullerton women’s cross country team won its first Big West Conference title in program history, at the UC Riverside Ags/OPs

Course. Meanwhile, the men’s squad took second place, which tied for their best finish in program history — the first time was in 1993. “This is a huge day for us as a program and that doesn’t come without a great support team,” said John Elders, head coach. “The whole track and field staff was here to [offer] support today. We couldn’t be what we are without them.”



Campus Celebrates Native American Heritage Month

Nov. 6, 2019
Cal State Fullerton celebrated the history of all indigenous peoples, including the Kizh, Acjachemen

and Gabrielino-Tongva of the region, during an evening of storytelling, ceremonial singing and dancing, and playing the Native American “stave game.” The Native American Heritage Month Celebration and Recognition event was hosted by President Fram Virjee and his wife, Julie, and supported by the Division of Student Affairs staff. The night truly honored the diverse cultures, traditions, histories and contributions of native people.



CSUF Named a College of Distinction Thanks to Support from Student Affairs

Nov. 6, 2019
 Cal State Fullerton received national recognition for its student-centered approach

to undergraduate education by the college guidance tool Colleges of Distinction. Elizabeth Boretz, Assistant Vice President for Student Success and Director of the Academic Advisement Center, noted: "With our Student Affairs partners we have engaged faculty in our student success teams. Through ongoing, campuswide partnerships and the continuous integration of technology, we have cut our graduation achievement gap by more than half in the past three years, while elevating our graduation rates. CSUF is a national leader in collaborative practices for student equity success."



Women's Soccer Wins Big West Tournament Championship

Nov. 10, 2019
 Cal State Fullerton women's soccer defeated Cal State Northridge, 4-0, to claim its second Big West

Tournament Championship in three years. It was the sixth Big West Tournament title in program history and the team's ninth trip to the NCAA Tournament. The victory did not take most by surprise as the Titans charged through Big West play without a single defeat during this year's regular season.



Veterans Resource Center Leads the Salute of Our Veterans

Nov. 11, 2019
 The Veterans Resource Center (VRC) hosted a month of programs in November, including a powerful 'Morning

Colors' Flag Raising Ceremony for Veterans Day, attended by President Virjee, Student Affairs leadership, and Congressman Gil Cisneros, among others. Other events that CSUF participated in during the month included the Fullerton Veterans Day Parade and Vets vs. Cadets Flag Football Game. The VRC also coordinated special educational presentations for the community. Each year CSUF dedicates the month of November to veterans to show support and gratitude, especially to Titan student veterans and military-connected students.



Homecoming 2019 a Slam Dunk Thanks to Student Affairs

Nov. 18, 2019
 About 1,000 students, alumni, faculty and staff attended 2019 Homecoming festivities and basketball game to cheer on the

Titans as they took on the Stanislaus State Warriors. The 82-62 win, along with carnival games, In-N-Out burgers and choreographed dance routines by Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) members, made for a festive evening. The Division of Student Affairs played a central role in orchestrating the successful event. Along with an energetic pregame festival, President Fram Virjee and his wife, Julie, welcomed alumni back to campus and encouraged them to stay in touch with their alma mater, while cheerleaders tossed T-shirts into the crowd and Tuffy the mascot posed for numerous selfies.



Tuffy's Basic Needs Services Center Raises Awareness About Basic Needs Support
 Nov. 18
 Cal State Fullerton hosted a series of events in November to draw

attention to Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week. The national week highlighted basic needs issues and the initiatives designed to address them. Included in the programming at CSUF: A food and housing resource fair; an Associated Students CSUF, Inc. mobile food pantry; workshops and educational presentations. "The presence of campus community members can increase awareness and help reduce the stigma that is often associated with seeking basic needs support," conveyed Carmen Curiel, Associate Dean of Students, Care Services.



Two Titan Leaders Receive Accolades From Student Affairs Peers
 Nov. 21, 2019
 Vice President for Student Affairs Harry Le Grande and Associate Vice President for Student Affairs Vincent Vigil

each received accolades for their exemplary leadership in Student Affairs from NASPA Region VI. VP Le Grande became the recipient of the 2019 Scott Goodnight Award for Outstanding Performance as a Dean/Vice President. AVP Vigil was honored with the Mid-Level Student Affairs Professional Award. Both were presented with their awards at the NASPA Region VI Conference in Portland, Oregon. "It is an honor to be recognized by my student affairs colleagues," Vigil said. "I am thankful to my mentors who have supported me throughout my career journey. I also feel privileged to work at Cal State Fullerton and assist students who are like me when I was in college — first-generation, queer, Latinx and low-income."



CSUF Honored as a Leader in Supporting Community College Transfer Students
 Nov. 26, 2019
 Cal State Fullerton was honored for its efforts to ensure that community college students

access and succeed in a pathway designed to streamline the transfer process to the California State University system. The Campaign for College Opportunity honored 15 California institutions, including CSUF, two other CSU campuses and community colleges, as a 2019 "Champion of Higher Education" for leading the state in the Associate Degree for Transfer pathway program. "Through this pathway, students are able to seamlessly transfer to Cal State Fullerton — and all of their classes count toward their bachelor's degree," said Tonantzin Oseguera, Associate Vice President for Student Affairs.



Student Affairs Wellness Programs Receive Funding from The CSU
 Jan. 9, 2020
 Counseling & Psychological Services (CAPS) and Tuffy's Basic Needs Services (TBNS)

received funding from The California State University Chancellor's Office to advance the existing departments in significant ways. In January 2020, CAPS was awarded with a one-time funding allocation of \$125,000 to develop and enhance current mental health programs and services. Meanwhile, TBNS was also awarded a one-time funding allocation of \$404,930 to develop basic needs partnerships and assist our students who are experiencing basic needs insecurity.