

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY CHANNEL ISLANDS

# Channel

FALL 2018 • VOLUME 22  
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MAGAZINE



## Peer mentors make a difference

PAGE 20

*Tipper Gore endows peer  
mentor program* PAGE 23

# Striving to ensure our vision

**O**NLY A FEW WEEKS AGO OUR REGION AND OUR state experienced back-to-back, heart-wrenching tragedies. Many of CSUCI's campus community were directly affected by the Borderline Bar & Grill shooting and the devastating Hill and Woolsey fires.

We are deeply grateful to the first responders, emergency personnel and firefighters who worked so diligently to protect us all. Our campus was under mandatory evacuation until the Hill fire was contained, and an abundance of caution and concern for the emotional well-being of our students led our campus leadership team to suspend classes through the Thanksgiving holiday.

These events were unfathomable and tragic. They left our community shaken and grieving.

Yet, as we begin to heal I am hopeful that each of us finds comfort in the kindness, generosity, and caring of our colleagues, neighbors, and friends.

Before it was marked by tragedy, the fall began with the dawning of a new academic year. It was such a joy to watch the campus spring to life, humming with the activity of students striving to realize their greatest aspirations.

We delighted in welcoming our new Vice President for Student Affairs, Dr. Richard Yao, who you will read more about on pages 8-9. Additionally, on pages 18-19 you can learn about our new academic leadership including Dean of the School of Arts & Sciences, Dr. Vandana Kohli, our new Dean of Extended University and Associate Vice President for International Programs, Dr. Osman Östergut, and our new Dean of the School of Education, Dr. Brian Sevier. We were also pleased to welcome 12 new tenure-track faculty members and 30 new lecturers hailing from a wide-array of disciplines.

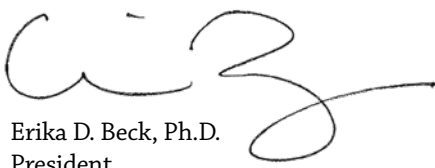
This issue of *Channel* features our Peer Mentorship Ambassador Program. A program we believe is a vital ingredient for fostering leadership and improving student success, especially for students who are the first in their families to attend college. We are so grateful to Tipper Gore who is the founding donor for this extraordinary new program. You will read more about Ms. Gore on page 23.

This academic year we continue our focus on striving to reimagine higher education for a new student population and era. We have launched a series of strategic initiatives to do just that. Campus teams are looking at various ways to help all students graduate in a timely manner regardless of their background, with the knowledge, skills and experience necessary for success. Additionally, we are striving to ensure our vision for an equitable and inclusive environment extends to every corner of our campus, and that we are able to procure the resources necessary to sustain and grow our University.

Our stories showcasing our new academic boot camp and e-transcript reader highlight some of the steps we are taking to accomplish these ambitious goals. For more information about our strategic initiatives, please visit: [go.csuci.edu/si](http://go.csuci.edu/si).

I hope you enjoy reading about the tremendous work that our faculty and staff do every day to help our students channel their potential and succeed here at CSU Channel Islands. On behalf of our entire campus community, we wish you a safe and wonderful holiday season!

Sincerely,



Erika D. Beck, Ph.D.  
President







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**CSU Channel Islands  
Mission Statement**

Placing students at the center of the educational experience, California State University Channel Islands provides undergraduate and graduate education that facilitates learning within and across disciplines through integrative approaches, emphasizes experiential and service learning, and graduates students with multicultural and international perspectives.

If you would like to be added to our email or mailing list for University events or special announcements, please submit your contact information to: [csuci.news@csuci.edu](mailto:csuci.news@csuci.edu)



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# Channel

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*President's Dinner & Concert*

# Creating a buzz as a Bee Campus USA

By Kim Lamb Gregory

**A** “PERFECT SWARM” OF CAMPUS COLLABORATION resulted in CSUCI becoming the first four-year university in California to be named a Bee Campus USA.

The designation has been granted to 51 U.S. campuses so far by the Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation, a nonprofit organization based in Portland, Oregon.

“The program aspires to make people more PC — pollinator conscious, that is,” said Scott Hoffman Black, Xerces’ executive director. “If lots of individuals and communities begin planting native, pesticide-free flowering trees, shrubs and perennials, it will help to sustain many species of pollinators.”

Earning “Bee Campus” designation required cooperation among faculty, administration, staff and students — a team effort rooted in two sustainability classes taught by Chemistry Lecturer Safa Khan, Ph.D.

“Bee Campus USA was a collaborative effort that began with my Chemistry classes and became a reality due to the efforts of many,” Khan said.

In fall of 2017, Khan’s students proposed a pollinator project, which resulted in a number of projects, including a pollinator garden on the second floor courtyard of Sierra Hall, and an educational Earth Day campaign. Grounds personnel Ricky Medrano and Juan Cardenas helped with the garden and Chemistry Academic Support Analyst Gina Matibag assisted with the outreach.

Student assistant and Biology major Jazmin Horvet started the paperwork this summer and took the idea a step further by proposing a Bee Club, which will begin this spring.

❖ “I think we can be a leader in the academic world as an institution bringing the plight of the pollinators to students and the public.” —*Ruben Alarcon*

Associate Professor of Biology and bee expert Ruben Alarcon, Ph.D., provided the academic requirement for the Bee Campus designation with



his ongoing bee research and apiculture classes.

“Honeybee and native bee populations have been declining for a long time now — at least over the last decade,” Alarcon said. “It’s been a problem ensuring our wild plants can reproduce and we need these pollinators for the foods that we eat.”

In 2017, Alarcon installed an apiary (bee farm) on campus, which boasts about 20 hives. The farm will allow Alarcon to teach students basic beekeeping skills, making CSUCI one of only four CSU campuses to offer such courses.

Khan’s students plan a second garden and





Michelle Mendoza, President Erika Beck, Shirley Williams, and Jazmin Horvet are outfitted with protective suits for handling bee hives.

campaign about the critical role bees play in our survival.

"I think we can be a leader in the academic world as an institution bringing the plight of the pollinators to students and the public," Alarcon said. "We're in a great environment to not only teach students and bees and bee biology, but also to work with local beekeepers to ensure they're doing what's best for the bees." ♦ **C**

To view a video of the bees on campus visit:  
[go.csuci.edu/bees](http://go.csuci.edu/bees)

To learn more about the campus bees visit:  
[go.csuci.edu/bees-usa](http://go.csuci.edu/bees-usa)





# Danielle Quillan receives Staff Award for Excellence

By Zoe Lance

**J**UST A FEW WEEKS AGO, Danielle Quillan heard back from one of the CSUCI students she had coached through an extensive internship application. After interning at a local laboratory for a semester through CSUCI's Henry L. "Hank" Lacayo Institute (HLI) for Workforce and Community Studies, the student had been hired for a full-time position after graduation.

"It makes me smile. I love hearing those stories," Quillan says. "Part of student success at CSUCI is having those students come back and say, 'Thank you. I got this job because of this internship. You helped me write my resume, and you helped me gain self-confidence and new skills.' They're going into their fields career-ready."

As the HLI Internship Program Analyst, Quillan works with students who are looking to enhance their educational experience. She trains the students who apply to HLI's competitive internship program on professional development skills and helps place them in a paid position with a local employer, ensuring that it aligns with the students' career goals.

For her deep investment in her students' career readiness, Quillan received the 2018 CSUCI Staff Award for Excellence. Director of Career Development & Alumni Engagement Amanda Carpenter, Ed.D., nominated Quillan for the award.

"Danielle takes her work above and beyond," Carpenter said. "She's always looking for new ways of doing things, and I appreciate her perspective and willingness to challenge herself



and grow. She never wavers from her commitment to staying student-focused."

Before returning to the University as a staff member four years ago, Quillan worked in membership development at the Museum of Ventura County. She has worked with HLI since 2016, previously working with University Advancement as an Administrative Support Coordinator. Quillan says that her work in museums was made possible by an internship she had as a CSUCI Art student — she earned her bachelor's degree in 2008 with an emphasis in art history.

"At one point, I didn't really know if I wanted to go into teaching, or if I wanted to get my master's degree in art history and work in the museum field," she said. "But somebody suggested to me, 'You should do an internship — maybe you want to be in another area or maybe you want to work somewhere else.' It was

eye-opening. I wanted to come back to CSUCI to see students' success firsthand and feel like I've made a difference."

Quillan counts expanding HLI as her proudest CSUCI accomplishment. When she joined the HLI team, there was funding for 20 interns per semester. In the spring, Quillan will recruit upwards of 40 students.

"We've grown the program substantially, and Danielle has made a huge contribution to that," Carpenter said. "She always has a positive attitude, and is eager to roll up her sleeves and put the work in to support students in having quality internship experiences."

The CSUCI Staff Award for Excellence, bestowed by CSUCI Staff Council, annually recognizes outstanding staff members for their contributions to the University community. Award criteria include years of service, job performance and demonstration of University values. ♦c

# Empowering their peers

## Introducing Student Government President Atticus Reyes and Vice President Raul Perez

By Zoe Lance

**T**O ATTICUS REYES AND RAUL PEREZ, LEADING CSUCI's Student Government is more than a job — it's about helping their peers be the best people they can be.

"We're really try to break down barriers and just make students feel like they are a part of this community," Reyes said. "College is really such a formative and pivotal time in people's lives. You're not just learning about the areas that you think will help you in your professional career, but also how to be a productive member of society. We're trying to find the best ways to help students do that."

Reyes, a fourth-year History student, and Perez, a fourth-year Environmental Science & Resource Management student, are the 2018-19 president and vice president. In Student Government, they work with a team of student senators and officers to advocate for CSUCI students, at both the campus and state levels.

Throughout the year, Perez and Reyes want to increase civic engagement on campus, promote sustainability efforts and connect more students to University resources. During the recent Civic Engagement Week, Student Government participated in the statewide California College and University Ballot Bowl and helped over 600 students register to vote. They've also had compelling conversations around student access to basic needs resources, such as the Dolphin Food Pantry.

"Being involved on campus definitely exposes you to smaller communities within the University," Perez said. "One of the things we've learned about is a lack of connection between students and Student Government. One of the biggest things that we're trying to do is to let students know that we're here for them."

Reyes and Perez took different paths to their Student Government positions. Perez, a Downey native, had been involved in Student Government since his first year. After learning about the organization through Alexis Mumford, the 2017-18 vice president, he held positions as an intern and as the senator of sustainability and technology. Last spring, he was considering a run for a top position and needed a partner.

Reyes commutes to Camarillo from Ojai, and initially wasn't interested in Student Government. But after two formative experiences — becoming



Atticus Reyes and Raul Perez

a teaching assistant for a public speaking class and working on Capitol Hill in the Panetta Institute's Congressional Internship Program — he wanted to branch out at CSUCI.

"Raul approached me because he heard of all the things that I've been doing and told me he was looking for a candidate to run as president," Reyes said. "I'd heard about Student Government but didn't know much about it. After hearing more about what it can do, it was a perfect match."

Both Reyes and Perez are graduating in spring 2019. Reyes is contemplating studying law, while Perez is considering a career in urban planning. ♦c







# Supporting students

## *Richard Yao, CSUCI's new Vice President for Student Affairs*

By Zoe Lance

**O**NE OF THE THINGS RICHARD YAO IMMEDIATELY noticed when he set foot onto CSUCI was the power of its small campus atmosphere.

"The community here is very tight-knit, very engaged and very supportive of one another," Yao said. "A lot of our programs and events help promote a sense of belonging, and I think that shows in how our students perceive their experience here."

❖❖❖ "We're not only helping students develop academically, but also professionally and psychosocially." —Richard Yao

Yao, who became CSUCI's Vice President for Student Affairs in June, wants to ensure that the division's programs are fully aligned with the academic mission and the concerted efforts to promote student success. The Division of Student Affairs includes Associated Students Inc., Campus Life, Health Services, Housing & Residential Education, and Retention, Outreach and Inclusive Student Services.

"CSUCI students are embracing the challenges of higher education, and they're genuinely excited about the opportunity to be a part of the University," Yao said. "To me, that's the best part of my work, and the division has definitely contributed in meaningful ways to the student experience and campus community."

Yao came to Camarillo from Las Vegas, Nevada. He began his career as a licensed clinical psychologist and immersed himself in the mental health services community in Las Vegas. After arriving in 1995, he decided to also teach psychology courses at the local community college.

"I fell in love with higher education through teaching at the community college," Yao said. "I loved the interaction and mentoring students. The combination of my clinical work and teaching

experience was the perfect marriage, because the students wanted to learn from someone who was working in the community, and the teaching informed my clinical work by helping me stay up-to-date on the latest research."

Yao became a full-time lecturer at Nevada State College in 2006 and was eventually asked to help cultivate its student affairs programming. He became the founding Dean of Students, overseeing student life, academic advising and more. At Nevada State College, he met current CSUCI President Erika Beck.

"Learning about an opportunity at CSUCI was perfect timing — it was a similar institution to Nevada State College and being able to continue working with a student body that was primarily first generation and

under-represented, is very exciting," Yao said. "The opportunity to potentially work with President Beck again was also a big draw for me."

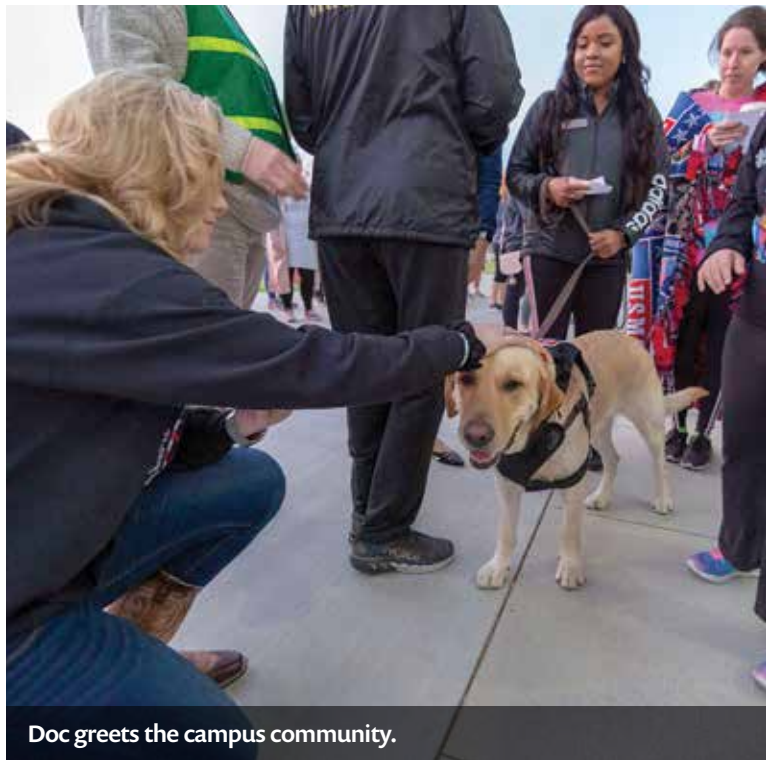
Yao sees many intersections between psychology and student affairs, which inform his leadership style. Yao earned a Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology from Fielding Graduate University in 2009.

"All of the theory and best practices in student affairs are grounded in the psychology literature base," he said. "We're not only helping students develop academically, but also professionally and psychosocially. We challenge students and help them move out of their comfort zones, take on new challenges, and develop the new skills that are required for success in college and beyond."

Over the academic year, Yao will continue to engage with students, faculty and staff to learn more about the CSUCI community. He has also emphasized the importance of gathering accurate utilization data for student affairs programs, improving outcomes assessment, and strengthening active collaborations with the Division of Academic Affairs. ❖c



Elizabeth Rice Grossman and Doc share a moment.



Doc greets the campus community.

## Doc the campus therapy dog is “in”

By Kim Lamb Gregory

**P**EACE HAS BEEN ELUSIVE FOR STUDENTS LIKE Alyssa Connaughton and Madison Cummings, who were among the 48 CSUCI students at the Borderline Bar & Grill that November night when a shooter took the lives of 12 people.

But when a five-year-old yellow Labrador Retriever named Doc padded through a throng of students awaiting the candlelight vigil in front of the Broome Library, faces lit with smiles and dozens of hands reached out to stroke Doc's coat.

“He was a good distraction,” said Connaughton, who reached out to pet Doc. “Dogs make everybody smile so it was great to have him there.”

Doc the campus therapy dog arrived on campus in October to help relieve students' stress about things like studies or exams. But after the Borderline shooting and two fires that caused a campus evacuation, Doc's responsibilities multiplied.

With soft brown eyes and an easy doggy smile, Doc was up to the task.

“Most of us have either grown up with dogs or been around dogs,” said Cummings, who grew up with two dogs. “Dogs can sense when you're in trauma. You don't have to say any words. You can just sit there and pet them.”

Doc is the first member of a campus therapy dog and veterans' service dog program made possible through a generous gift from the Dr. Richard

Grossman Community Foundation. The \$220,000 donation will allow students to benefit from two campus therapy dogs and for five student veterans with post-traumatic stress to receive individual service dogs.

Doc is named for renowned reconstructive and plastic surgeon Dr. Richard Grossman, who established the Grossman Burn Center in Sherman Oaks.

Doc's base of operations is at the University's Veterans Resource Center located in the Bell Tower, where anywhere from 10 to 15 students a day stop by to see him or to play his favorite game.

“He loves tug toys,” said Assistant Director for Veterans Affairs Programs, Jay Derrico. “He's available to any age and he likes being hugged by anybody who will hug him.”

Doc has already gained some faithful fans who visit him frequently, so one day Derrico pulled them together and created “Team Doc.”

“When I noticed the regulars coming in, I said ‘Let's put up a Google calendar so people can sign up to walk him,’” Derrico said. “One student grooms him and another does massages for animals.”

Doc goes home with a University staff member selected as Doc's handler, Assistive Technology Specialist Jerry Garcia.

Plans are underway for the procurement and training of the next campus therapy dog and five service dogs for student veterans. ♦C



# Seeking to serve

*Whether helping first-generation college students or children with autism, Oliver Perez, '17 Psychology and Spanish, is dedicated to serving others.*

By Marya Jones Barlow

**T**HOUGH HE'S ONLY JUST BEGINNING HIS CAREER, Oliver Perez says it will be hard to top the job he held for three years as a student at CSUCI.

Perez graduated in May 2017 with bachelor's degrees in Psychology and Spanish. Throughout his sophomore, junior and senior years, he worked as a University Experience Associate (UEA), helping hundreds of freshmen, sophomore, and transfer students — many first-generation like himself — navigate successfully through a four-year institution. The job, part of CSUCI's University Experience Program funded by a Project ISLAS federal Hispanic-Serving Institution grant, places UEAs in and outside of classes as peer mentors.

"I attribute my personal and professional development to that program," he said. "That was the place that molded me. It was a lot of fun to be in an environment where you're an active student worker. I got to help students grow while also developing my own skills."

Today, Perez is helping a much younger set of students. As a behavior interventionist with Easter Seals Autism Services, he makes home visits six days a week to children with autism and their families in the San Fernando Valley, coaching them on ways to improve social, communication, and daily living skills.

"It's great work," he said. "There's a big need for behavioral interventionists. The job offers a huge reward when you see these kids progress and improve their lives."

Perez grew up in the housing projects of South Central Los Angeles. From an early age — and encouraged by his mother — he grasped that education was "the sure way to a better life." Throughout high school he made a three-hour daily commute to Palisades Charter High School in Pacific Palisades in order to attend a top-ranked, "college-bound" high school.

Arriving on campus for his first year at CSUCI, Perez says he felt at home, thanks to his University Experience Associate, Stephany Rodriguez, who inspired him to become a UEA himself.

"She was a young Latina who understood where I was coming from, shared her own experience, and provided the support and guidance I needed to navigate the University," he recalled. "After that year, she was the one who said I should apply to be a peer



mentor. I thought it looked like a fun job. It turned out to be so much more than that."

Perez was able to integrate his work as a UEA with his Psychology major. He conducted research with Professors Kimmy Kee Rose and Marie Francois, studying the motivations and predictors of success in first-generation students and the ways to better support them.

"The best part was being able to tie in my research in psychology to the work we were doing in the University Experience Program," he said. "It was very interesting to me being a first-generation student to study the impacts of first-generation students and their motivational factors."

Now Perez has his sights set on another career that he hopes will give back to his community. He's applying for jobs in law enforcement, with the goal of working in the L.A. neighborhoods where he grew up.

"I know the area and have a connection to it," he said. "I'd like to go back and help out." ♦C



Melissa Mirkovich-Scholes, Amanda Carpenter and Leah Lacayo

# A full circle of support

## *Merging Career Development and Alumni Engagement*

By Zoe Lance

**E**VERY DAY, CSUCI'S DOLPHIN NETWORK OF students, alumni and industry partners grows a little stronger. In symbiosis, students take advantage of career-building and counseling resources, while the alumni who benefitted from those resources give back through volunteering, mentoring and hiring students. Industry partners work with both, helping spread the CSUCI community across the region and the nation.

A recent merger of Career Development and Alumni Engagement, under the Division of University Advancement, helps advance this network and the University's strategic initiatives. CSUCI is currently the only CSU campus with this innovative model, says Director of Career Development & Alumni Engagement Amanda Carpenter, Ed.D.

"This merger really allows us to do three things much better at CSUCI: provide more comprehensive career development for our students, enhance engagement opportunities for more alumni, and be a central hub that engages industry with talent," Carpenter said. "We know that if our alumni are doing well, they're going to share their stories and give back to the campus."

As a result of this merger, Carpenter is looking to offer more programming that's inclusive of all Dolphins. This may include enhancing and expanding career services for both current students and alumni who belong to the Alumni & Friends Association. While current students access Career Services for help on building resumes, finding internships and exploring potential career paths, their interactions with alumni can now happen earlier and more often.

"For students to know that it's a full circle — they come to Career Development and get our support, they get an internship in the community with an employer that we work with, they are potentially hired by that organization, and then come back as alumni to support and mentor new generations — is really important," Carpenter said.

She wants students and alumni to know that their relationship with the University doesn't end at Commencement. Having career services and alumni resources in the same place helps spread that message.

"We really want to keep our door open for our alumni, and this merger helps us to think critically about how we do things in innovative ways to benefit both students and alumni," Carpenter said.



## Reconnecting to CSUCI

**T**HE MEMBERS OF CSUCI'S ALUMNI & FRIENDS Association Board volunteer countless hours to organize and host programs and events for the CSUCI community. The board's co-presidents, Melissa Mirkovich-Scholes ('05 Liberal Studies) and Leah Lacayo, are invested in growing the alumni network.

Mirkovich-Scholes, a senior sales associate at SAGE Publishing, has been connected with the University since she graduated. She joined the board in 2017 and wanted to contribute even more.

"The Alumni & Friends Association Board is a really important point of contact for alumni to the University," Mirkovich-Scholes said. "One of the coolest things about being co-president is reconnecting with alumni and showing them ways they can give back."

Lacayo, a well-known community activist who has served on the board since 2008, had previously served as president. Her involvement with the University stretches back to before it was even a



Leah Lacayo

❖ "Our alumni have great skills and we would like them to come back and mentor current students. We encourage you to participate and your presence in the CSUCI community counts." –Leah Lacayo

campus, when she and her late husband Hank, lobbied with other community members for the establishment of a public university in Ventura County.

"I am excited to be working with Amanda Carpenter, and the newly merged Career Development & Alumni Engagement," Lacayo said. "It is because of Dr. Carpenter's leadership that the Hank Lacayo Institute at CSUCI has been so successful with its internship program."

Mirkovich-Scholes and Lacayo have big plans for the association this year. In addition to working to increase membership and strengthen mentoring opportunities for current students, they're updating the University's alumni database to make sure Dolphins get the CSUCI news they want.

"Our alumni have great skills and we would like them to come back and mentor current students," Lacayo said. "We encourage you to participate and your presence in the CSUCI community counts." ❖

*CSUCI alumni may update their contact information and others may learn more about the benefits of joining the Alumni & Friends Association at: [www.csuci.edu/alumni](http://www.csuci.edu/alumni).*



Melissa Mirkovich-Scholes





# The Dream Maker: LaSonya Davis

By Zoe Lance

**N**OT EVERYONE CAN LOOK AT A DILAPIDATED trailer and envision a flourishing mobile health clinic that will provide free screenings, immunizations and health education to underserved families and communities.

But LaSonya Davis, Associate Professor of Nursing, could and did. In 2015, she partnered with

believes that community service enhances their educational experiences.

"I tell my students, 'If you leave CSUCI the way you came in, I didn't do my job. You should be transformed,'" Davis said. "I try to help them develop a sense of lifelong learning."

In teaching courses like Vulnerable Populations and Nursing Care of Mothers, Infants, and

Women, Davis strives to help her students develop new perspectives about their work and practice the "art of caring."

"I have a sense of pride when I look at my students, and they've been able to develop

community engagement skills and a sense of accomplishment," Davis said.

Nursing graduate Dallas Lawry '14, remembers Davis leading her women's health rotation, and was struck by her approachability and passion for nursing. Lawry also remembers a moment of

✦ "Working with community members helps the students foster a sense of leadership and responsibility." –LaSonya Davis

St. Paul Baptist Church in Oxnard to transform the trailer into the Frances Huggins Community Health Clinic. Today, students from all disciplines help run the clinic and its annual fairs, making a real difference in the community they hope to serve in the future. A new partnership with Bethel AME Church in Oxnard will allow the clinic to one day include ambulatory care, as the University works to develop a graduate program in Nursing.

"The community has something to rely on and something that says, 'We care about your health,'" Davis said. "Working with community members helps the students foster a sense of leadership and responsibility."

When Davis joined the faculty in 2012, she brought over 20 years of nursing experience into her classroom. In addition to holding a Doctor of Nursing Practice, she is a Family Nurse Practitioner and a women's health nurse practitioner. She encourages her students to consider the myriad career paths within the field of nursing and



Davis meets with Nursing students in the Frances Huggins Community Health Clinic.



LaSonya Davis instructs nursing students Lorena Huizar (left) and Jacqueline Cuatrecasas

encouragement that has stuck with her as she's worked in a residency program in the oncology department at UCLA, and on a doctoral program at Loyola University New Orleans.

"In the second-to-last semester of my program, she told me, 'I expect that you will be one of the students that gets a higher degree,'" Lawry said. "I always come back to that, that she saw that in me. Throughout the process of applying to graduate school and getting scholarships, Professor Davis has always been a professor that has supported me, even after graduation."

To Davis, her students and colleagues are an extension of her family. She says that CSUCI is a place where everything is possible.

"It's a place where dreams are made," she said. "If you think it, it can happen. I can't think of anywhere else I'd rather be." ♦c



LaSonya Davis listens to a Nursing student.



# “The heart of what educators are called to do”

## *Master of Arts in Education programs*

By Zoe Lance

**I**N THE HIGH SCHOOL ENGLISH CLASSES THAT Paola (Bisharat) Ismail ('13 B.A. English, '14 Single Subject Credential, '18 M.A. Education) teaches, Mark Twain's "The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn" is on the syllabus. The novel has had a long history of controversy, but teaching it and having conversations about it with her students doesn't faze Ismail.

"In the Master of Arts in Education program at CSUCI, I was able to learn the skills of breaching sensitive topics. It helped me build self-confidence," said Ismail, who teaches at Arcadia High School in the San Gabriel Valley. "It reassured me that although the topics could be sensitive or controversial to my students, I was equipped to teach them."

❖ "We give the master's students a foundation in the field of education and make their courses applicable to their teaching." —Jeanne Grier

The two master of arts programs at CSUCI's School of Education prepare students like Ismail to delve deeper into pedagogy and cultivate classroom leadership skills. The School has a master's degree in education with emphases in curriculum and instruction or disability studies, as well as a master's degree in educational leadership with emphases in higher education or P-12 leadership that leads to state licensure to be a public school principal. Many of the master's students are working educational professionals in Ventura County.

"We give the master's students a foundation in the field of education and make their courses applicable to their teaching," said Professor of Secondary Education Jeanne Grier, Ph.D., chair of the school's graduate programs. "It's not just theory, but connecting where the field has been

historically, where we are now and how that impacts your classroom. The students feel ready to make decisions based upon solid foundations."

In the program, class sizes are small and taught by faculty who are often connected to Ventura County — a point of pride for Grier.

"The CSU was originally founded as teachers colleges, where our initial purpose was to educate teachers. That still remains at the heart of the CSU," Grier said. "What CSUCI brings today are small cohorts: We offer evening classes to students who work full-time during the day, and it gives them the opportunity to serve."

The master's programs center on the tenets of social justice, which Grier says benefits both the teacher and the classroom.

"We look at the whole child, the whole environment and the whole context of where the community is," Grier said. "All of those things are going to influence the learning that happens with a single student. In our classes that focus on teaching, we don't really talk about teaching. We talk about how to make learning happen."

When Ismail thought about pursuing her master's, she knew she was going to return to CSUCI. The faculty and the experience she had as a credential student solidified her choice. Driving back and forth from Pasadena to Camarillo, she thought about how

it would help both her and her students. Having faculty role models for fostering inclusivity and championing students helped her realize she was in the right place.

"The heart of what educators are called to do is to shape the world into a better version of itself, one student at a time," Ismail said. "From day one, CSUCI showed me that my professors would prioritize me and make me feel part of a whole. I've been able to bring that feeling to my own classroom. It keeps me motivated to move up the ladder in education." ♦C

To learn more about the Master of Arts in Education programs visit: [go.csuci.edu/ma-ed](http://go.csuci.edu/ma-ed)



Jeanne Grier

# Academic leadership

## Three new deans join CSUCI

By Zoe Lance

### VANDANA KOHLI

Vandana Kohli's passion for working with undergraduate students has always been rooted in the classroom. The new Dean of the School of Arts & Sciences, which spans 20 academic programs, enjoys the thrill of seeing students question their own ideas and find their place in the university community.

"When I was in the classroom, I observed how students reinforced or challenged their world views as they engaged with new intellectual material," she said. "To be able to interact with undergraduates, and to help people get on the path of a career or additional higher educational opportunities, is my calling."

Kohli earned her doctorate in demography from Michigan State University, and has immersed herself in a career that is committed to community service and improving undergraduate educational outcomes. Prior to joining CSUCI, Kohli held faculty and leadership roles at CSU Los Angeles and CSU Bakersfield.

As she settles into the academic year, Kohli is looking forward to learning more about student, faculty and staff needs in the School of Arts & Sciences and embracing the tenets of the University's new strategic initiatives.

### BRIAN SEVIER

Since arriving at CSUCI in fall 2017, Brian Sevier has had a phenomenal first year as the Dean of the School of Education. He cites attending the first ceremony CSUCI had to recognize credential program graduates, as well as undertaking re-accreditation for the school's programs and a revamp of the school's facilities, as hallmarks of the past academic year.

"We are doing great, exciting things at the School of Education," Sevier said. "There's real excitement for everyone in thinking about how we move forward."

Sevier came to CSUCI after extensive state-level

and academic work in Colorado. He earned his doctorate in education at the University of Colorado Boulder.

Over the next year, Sevier is looking forward to working with the National Center for Teacher Residency, which will help the School of Education outline possible residency pathways for a number of K-12 Education programs. The school will also continue conducting focus groups with various Ventura County community members to learn more about how to prepare CSUCI education students for the county's classrooms.

"When you think about where you're preparing teachers to teach, you're preparing them for your local community," he said. "The community should know that their best teachers come from the CSUCI School of Education."



Vandana Kohli is Dean of the School of Arts & Sciences





Brian Sevier is Dean of the School of Education



Osman Özturgut is Dean of Extended University and Associate Vice President of International Programs

## OSMAN ÖZTURGUT

Osman Özturgut considers himself an “edupreneuer” — an educator whose mission is to help others gain access to opportunities and ideas that will help them grow. To him, that’s also the role of extended education at CSUCI.

❖ “We are so globally interconnected in economics and culture. Our students need to be aware of that and use that understanding to engage in their communities.” —*Osman Özturgut*

“I’m looking at how responsive we are to community needs,” he said. “That’s the combination of education and business — how can we help people become better and more enlightened citizens?”

As the Dean of Extended University and Associate Vice President for International Programs, Özturgut is responsible for overseeing a variety of bachelor’s, master’s, certificate and community education programs at CSUCI’s Camarillo, Goleta and online

campuses. He’s especially drawn to CSUCI’s focus on internationalism.

“We are so globally interconnected in economics and culture,” he said. “Our students need to be aware of that and use that understanding to engage in their communities.”

A native of Turkey, Özturgut received a doctorate in educational leadership and policy studies from the University of Missouri in St. Louis. He has a deep professional background in international education,

and has lived and worked in many different countries. Prior to CSUCI, Özturgut was Dean of Research and Graduate Studies and tenured faculty member at the University of the Incarnate Word in San Antonio, Texas. ❖**C**



From upper left to right, clockwise: Adrian Uribe, Jennifer Herrera, Tonya Murguia-Gonzalez, Nancy Villegas Sanchez, Alyssa Smith, Vanessa Meraz, Sarah Teniente



# The power of peer mentoring: Changing student lives

By Zoe Lance

**A** PEER MENTOR AT CSUCI IS SOMEONE WHO serves in the spirit of community-building, during a formative time in people's lives. They're someone who has learned a thing or two about being a student and wants to share their newfound wisdom with those who might need a spark of it. And most importantly, they're a friend — someone you can lean on when you need some help, who makes you feel like you belong.

Across the University, a network of peer mentoring roles in the Divisions of Academic and Student Affairs helps students navigate the “hidden curriculum” of being a college student — how to find resources, understand procedures and ask for help. There are hundreds of students serving in these roles, and the largest part of the network lies in Peer Education and Equity Programs (PEEP).

“Peer mentors provide a support structure. They are able to connect with their peers on a completely different level.” — *Amanda Quintero*

“Peer mentors provide a support structure. They are able to connect with their peers on a completely different level,” said Associate Vice Provost for Student Success & Community Engagement Amanda Quintero, Ph.D. “The magic sauce of peer mentoring at CSUCI is the incredible training and investment in the leadership capacity of our students. Our mentors have the skills and confidence to facilitate group activities inside and outside of the classroom, which promotes student success strategies and engages everyone in a successful pathway to graduation.”

Vice President for Student Affairs, Richard Yao, Ph.D., echoes that sentiment.

“One of the most beautiful things about peer mentorship is that mentors touch the lives of potentially 15 to 25 students. And if we have 50 or more mentors who interact with 15 or 25 students,

it has a ripple effect,” he said. “I truly believe that our peer mentors fully grasp the magnitude of that task and the opportunity.”

Sally Fernandez, Angela Christopher and Katherine Martinez have all participated in one of CSUCI's peer mentoring programs — as a mentor, mentee and sometimes both. All three students count the programs as powerful, transformative experiences.

## FINDING A VOICE

Fernandez, a third-year Sociology student, learned about PEEP in her first semester. In a first-year seminar course, a peer mentor helped her work through a rough transition. His dedication inspired her to become a mentor herself.

“PEEP definitely shaped my experience at CSUCI for the better because I have been able to use my voice to help others,” Fernandez said. “One day, my mentees can find their own voice in the way that I was able to find mine through this experience.”

University Experience Associates like Fernandez focus on first-year students and their transition from high school to university life. When their mentees need some extra help that a campus service can provide, mentors make references. Through PEEP, Fernandez has felt empowered in her own education.

“The main thing I learned about myself through being a mentor was that I, too, could be a leader and example for first-year students — that if I, as a Latina, first-generation college student can make it, they can too,” Fernandez said.

## FINDING A PLACE

Throughout her time at CSUCI, Christopher has participated in several peer mentoring programs across campus. She remembers being welcomed by Housing & Residential Education's POD Squad, a team of students who assist new residents during move-in weekend. That connection made her feel at home.

The fourth-year psychology student found another mentoring program later in her time at CSUCI. As a Wellness Promotion & Education peer educator,



Christopher presents at a variety of educational presentations and workshops, on topics like healthy eating and stress management. This work, coupled with a term as Student Government's Senator of Wellness and Recreation, helped her find her niche.

"Peer mentoring programs are so important to have, because it helps students find their place," she said. "I really needed to find my place, and if I hadn't found the POD Squad, Student Government, or Wellness Promotion & Education, I don't think I would have stayed at CSUCI."

After being both a mentor and mentee, Christopher is now considering extending her educational path.

"The peer educator position helped me crystallize what educational leadership was, and how majoring in psychology would help me find a career in higher education," Christopher said. "Being able to interact with students that have different perspectives and backgrounds has been really helpful."

### FINDING A DREAM

As a University Culture Student Engagement and Outreach Mentor with PEEP, Martinez has both on and off-campus roles. She could be hosting a self-care workshop for current students one day and giving a presentation on college applications at a local high school the next.

"One thing that I learned about myself through my role is my love for presenting and engaging with community members," the fourth-year sociology student said. "I have realized that I want to continue working in higher education. I am a first-generation college student, so being able to help other students is a dream come true."

In 2017, Martinez took a Peer-To-Peer Effectiveness seminar, which taught her about the theories of student development, active learning and lesson planning. In the course, she learned about student jobs with PEEP. Through helping her peers, she's been able to take advantage of the breadth of University resources.

"This position has allowed me to be aware of the amazing things offered on campus," she said. "I have attended more events, utilized the library more, and used my knowledge to help other students navigate their way around our campus." ♦C



# Former U.S. Second Lady Tipper Gore endows program for peer mentors

By Zoe Lance

**A**S A SUPPORTER OF EDUCATION AND AN advocate for mental health awareness, supporting peer mentorship at CSUCI seemed like a perfect fit for former U.S. Second Lady Tipper Gore.

To that end, Gore has become the founding donor for “The Tipper Gore Award for Excellence in Peer Mentorship,” which will provide \$3,500 a semester for selected peer mentor “ambassadors” who will continue to mentor as well as take on other responsibilities to advocate for the program.

Gore, who splits her time between Virginia and Santa Barbara, is a relatively new friend to CSUCI, but has been such a champion for the University that she was awarded an Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters during the 2018 Commencement ceremony.

“I really fell in love with the University and the people I met there and the student body,”

Gore said. “I asked what the University really needed and I was told about the peer mentorship program.”

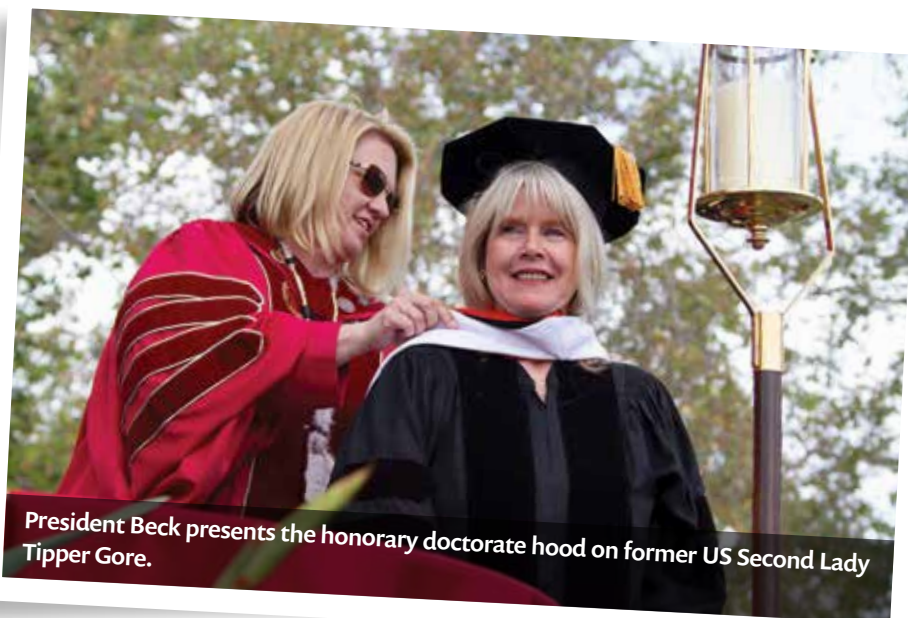
Gore believes in the power of peer mentors who can provide students with academic, emotional and practical support for what can be an unfamiliar environment.

“It’s another person in a closer age bracket so they can identify more,” Gore said. “A teacher or older person might be able to dispense advice and guidance, but when that guidance comes from someone close to their age with some experience under their belts, it’s more meaningful.”

After transferring to CSUCI from Alan Hancock College in Santa Maria, Business major Bryan Calazan was struggling. He was overwhelmed attending school full time while also holding down a full-time job.

“When I transferred from junior college, I was not expecting how hard it would be for me,” he said. “I didn’t really know how to balance things.”

Not only was he the first in his family to attend college, he had also grown up in the Philippines



speaking Tagalog, so English was a second language.

When he found himself on academic probation, he sought help from the University’s Peer Education & Equity Program (PEEP), which provides peer mentors to students who need help.

He was paired with Sarah Teniente, who was also a first-generation college student, a Business major, and had transferred from Alan Hancock College in Santa Maria.

“It was hard for him because he’s the full provider for his family,” she said. “I helped him with his grammar, offered study tips and guided him to other free resources on campus. I’ve gone through what he’s gone through.”

Teniente says the help she gives her mentees is not confined to academics.

“I’m there for my mentees for anything they need,” she said. “Picking professors, roommate problems — I’ll be able to guide them in the right direction.”

Gore hopes others will contribute to the peer mentorship fund so those success stories continue to multiply and have a positive impact on more young adult lives. ♦c

To learn more or support the peer mentorship program visit: [www.csuci.edu/giving](http://www.csuci.edu/giving)

# Treating patients and their families

*Hollie-Ann McKiel, '18 B.S. Nursing*

*By Marya Jones Barlow*

**H**OLLIE-ANN MCKIEL WAS 16 WHEN SHE discovered the power nurses can have. Her mother was diagnosed with breast cancer and immediately sent into surgery. Both mother and daughter were “terrified,” she recalls.

The surgery saved her mother’s life — today she’s 15-years cancer-free — but it’s the hospital’s nurses that McKiel remembers with the most reverence and gratitude.



“The patience and compassion the nursing staff had when dealing with my mother was extraordinary,” she said. “They were so calming, caring, and unbelievably comforting that it brought me to tears. It was during this time that I knew I needed to be a nurse. I wanted to be that calming presence for someone during their most trying times.”

Today, McKiel is a registered nurse working in the Surgical Intensive Care Unit at Cottage Health in

Santa Barbara. She spends her days helping surgery and trauma patients and their families in the Central Coast’s only Level One Trauma Center.

She landed her job straight out of CSUCI’s Nursing program. McKiel says Cottage Health felt like home because it was where she completed her clinical training.

“I feel so lucky to have transitioned from being a student to a nurse here,” she said. “I knew that their employee satisfaction was good, the environment was great, and all the equipment was first-rate and familiar.”

Raised in Massachusetts, McKiel moved to the West Coast after high school (and her mother’s recovery from breast cancer) to pursue her dream of becoming

a nurse. But she struggled to manage the expense of going to school full-time in Orange County while working as a Certified Nursing Assistant. To pay the bills, she took a job in an interior design firm, which led to an enjoyable nine-year detour as an interior designer. During those years, McKiel met and married her husband, Ryan, earned a bachelor’s degree in Earth Systems Science at UC Irvine, and moved to Oxnard.

At age 25, McKiel decided to pursue her deferred dream of becoming a nurse. She completed the prerequisites and was admitted to CSUCI’s Track I Generic BSN pre-licensure Nursing program in Goleta.

“I wanted to go to the best program around and get the best training possible, and CSUCI’s Nursing program is rated #12 in California,” she said. “From the outstanding professors to the amazing simulation lab, it was the best choice I ever made.”

At CSUCI, McKiel served in leadership roles for the Student Nurses’ Association and Red Cross Club — performing over 200 hours of volunteer service; earning critical care, EKG, ventilator/tracheostomy, and American Red Cross Disaster Health & Sheltering Course certifications; and helping organize community health clinics and global health symposia.

She worked on research and outreach projects with long-term value. A group project on community disaster preparedness won an award from the National Student Nurses’ Association and will soon be published in a research paper in its journal, “Imprint.” She also helped organize the Health Literacy Station at the annual Care Harbor LA event, a pop-up clinic providing free medical, dental and vision care to uninsured patients.

McKiel also earned the honor of being named Pinning Ceremony speaker, along with a DAISY in Training Award, recognizing nursing students who exemplify the delivery of clinical care in an extraordinary and compassionate way.

Now at Cottage Health, McKiel is helping patients and their families with the same compassion she experienced when the tables were turned 15 years ago.

“It’s truly a rewarding career,” she said. “You feel the difference you’re making by being there, not only to care for the patient but also for their loved ones. The most powerful part of my job is we are changing lives and making a difference.” ♦c





# Making progress on student success strategic initiatives

By Zoe Lance

**T**HE CORNERSTONE OF CSUCI'S NEW STRATEGIC Initiatives is student success and making sure that all students stay on track to receive their degrees.

Two of the student success initiatives focus on increasing academic support for students in their first year and establishing new processing and planning tools to assist students. Over the last year, a team of dedicated faculty and staff members have been working to meet these goals.

## **STRATEGIC INITIATIVE 2.1: Increase academic support for students in the first-year.**

For the students who have attended Academic Advising's Academic Success Boot Camps, the afternoon of workshops, speakers and activities has made the transition from high school or community college to CSUCI easier.

At the boot camp, hosted a few days before the start of fall semester, students learned about classroom expectations and success strategies,

and brushed up on library resources and time management tips. Academic Advising hosted two separate camps for freshmen and transfer students, with help on the transfer program from Student Academic Success and Equity Initiatives staff.

"I'm a first-generation student, and I liked the boot camp because it felt like it was something to get my feet wet," a first-year student said in a video testimonial. "Coming to the boot camp was a good experience to get to know how things work around campus, and get a little bit more comfortable."

Director of Academic Advising Ernesto Guerrero, Ed.D., is excited to check in on this year's students after their first term. Academic Advising found that freshmen students who attended the 2017 program had grade point averages higher than a 3.0 after the first semester, and were more likely to register for a full load of courses and stay in them than the students who hadn't attended the boot camp.

"The students' reactions to the boot camps were overwhelmingly positive," he said. "Our biggest goal for next year will be to increase attendance and get students engaged."



Left to Right: Daniela Ochoa, Eileen Ryding,  
Todd Oberson, Aurora Kewald

**STRATEGIC INITIATIVE 2.2: Improve timeliness of admissions and enrollment (e.g., implement an E-Transcript reader program).**

Submitting final transcripts from community colleges is a time-consuming process for transfer students. It would take many weeks for the University to get transcripts in the mail and match them with student records. It would also take extra time for staff to go over the transcripts, ensuring that students could register for upper-division courses.

However, Enrollment Services is bringing on a new transcript reader tool to alleviate the manual work and expedite the process. The new electronic process will help future students see their transfer credit from California community colleges, register for their first term during their Orientation program, and

know exactly what they have left to complete in their academic requirements report much faster than before.

In addition, a new online tool called Degree Planner is rolling out across majors. Students can use it to build their personalized academic roadmap, helping them know what the path to graduation looks like. As students work with their advisors to plug in courses, the academic programs will know how many seats they need to have in a given term.

“This tool has many benefits — not just for informing the students, but also informing the programs so that we can accommodate everyone,” said Ana Rosa Duran, Director of Student Systems. “It’s a better way to communicate with students about what to expect so they can maximize their time here.” ♦C

To learn more about the new strategic initiatives visit: [go.csuci.edu/si](http://go.csuci.edu/si)



# Home-Brewed in Ventura

Seth Gibson, '06 B.S. Business Administration

By Marya Jones Barlow

**I**N ALMOST THREE YEARS SINCE MADEWEST Brewing Company opened its doors, the Ventura-based microbrewery has enjoyed steady growth, national awards for its beers, and a distribution partnership to over 600 locations with Escondido's venerable Stone Brewing.

But for co-founder and CEO Seth Gibson, the most gratifying signs of success are the company's 22 employees and the growing number of new patrons he sees each week in MadeWest's taproom.

"The first couple months we opened, it was our friends and family coming and hanging out," he said. "Now if I go into the tasting room, there are more new faces than familiar ones. People visit from all over California because they've heard about our beer."

Ventura was the natural home for MadeWest. Gibson and co-founder/head brewer Mike Morrison met and grew up there as best friends. After graduating from high school in 2001, they headed off to college together at San Diego State University (SDSU). Gibson missed his hometown and ultimately left to complete his degree at the new CSUCI campus closer to home, while Morrison stayed at SDSU.

Over the next decade, Gibson worked at a real estate development firm, rising from accountant to chief financial officer and cultivating the expertise to run a profitable business, attract investors, and raise capital.

Meanwhile, back in San Diego, Morrison's homebrewing hobby had escalated into a talent worth sharing. After sampling his best friend's beers, Gibson saw an opportunity to realize a lifelong dream.

"Ever since high school I dreamed of creating a company and helping to add jobs in Ventura," he said. "I've seen firsthand how so many of my peers moved away from the area after high school and very few were able to move back home for the lack of jobs available."

In 2013, the two friends launched MadeWest and started on the path to commercial production. By 2015, they had raised enough money to break ground on a 14,000-square-foot building in a midtown Ventura industrial park. The following year, MadeWest Brewing Company made its public debut, opening a sleek, modern brewery and spacious family- and dog-friendly tasting room at 1744 Donlon Street to rave reviews.

Along with 12 varieties of core and rotating beers on tap, patrons can enjoy food trucks, live music, and patio views of the Channel Islands seven days a week. They can take beers home in cans, crowlers, or growlers.

While Gibson says MadeWest "isn't trying to



dominate the U.S.," it is establishing an impressive foothold in Southern California. This year, the company will brew 6,000 barrels — up from 2,000 in 2016 and 4,000 in 2017. Its beers are sold in over 600 locations throughout Southern California, thanks to a distribution partnership with Stone Brewing, the nation's eighth-largest craft brewer. For those who can't find its beer locally, MadeWest recently launched an online shipping service that delivers cold brews directly to California customers' doors.

Two MadeWest beers recently claimed prestigious industry awards. The company's Standard, a signature pilsner-like ale, won a gold medal at the Great American Beer Festival in Denver in September. Its Donlon Double IPA took bronze in the May 2018 World Beer Cup — affectionately known as "the Olympics of Beer."

Still, the acclaim can't beat the satisfaction of seeing a homegrown business he co-founded thriving and giving back to Ventura. The brewery and its 22 employees recently won a "Spirit of Small Business" award from the Pacific Coast Business Times. The tasting room attracts over 2,000 guests a week — and regularly hosts community and private events from school fundraisers to weddings.

Gibson has also taken pride in seeing MadeWest connect with his alma mater. The company's beers have appeared at CSUCI alumni events, campus restaurants, and even been the subject of a senior capstone project.

"It's a compliment to see MadeWest become a staple of the community and the county," Gibson said. "I definitely can't complain. Life is good."

Gibson lives in Ventura with his wife, CSUCI alumna Allison (Weingardt) Gibson ('07 B.A. Art and USC '12 master's in creative writing), and their two children, Jude, 5, and Sage, 2. ♦c



## President's Dinner & Concert

**G**RAMMY-AWARD WINNING MUSICIAN CHRIS BOTTI and his top-notch instrumental band performed jazz, pop, rhythm and blues, and a selection of Botti's hits at the annual President's Dinner & Concert presented by the CSU Channel Islands Foundation and Rabobank. The concert was held Oct. 13 at the Commemorative Air Force Museum in Camarillo.

"I always look forward to this concert," said President Erika Beck. "It's wonderful to see the community come out and support CSUCI while also enjoying an evening of music and the delicious chef-prepared selection of food. The funds raised will provide the University with the flexibility to address its priority needs as it works to give our students a chance to channel their potential and transform their lives."

President Beck opened the concert with a welcome and the presentation of the Robert J. Lagomarsino Award, which was presented to Russell Galipeau, retired Park Superintendent for the Channel Islands National Park (story on pg. 30).

VIP guests were treated to several delicious chef-attended food stations prepared by CSUCI's Director of Dining Services and Executive Chef Peter Maher, as well as Chef de Cuisine, Nic Manocchio.

Sponsors for the President's Dinner & Concert are: Rabobank; Gene Haas Foundation; Sage Publishing; GBL Systems Corporation; Harrison Industries; Union Bank; Ventura Rental Party & Events; Montecito Bank & Trust; Pacific Western Bank; Alexander Buick GMC; Airborne Technologies; Canteen of Coastal California; Elise and Bill Kearney; Esther and Thomas Wachtell; Follett Higher Education Group; Leavens Ranches; Musick Peeler; Ventura County Credit Union; California Resources Corporation; Community Memorial Health System; Julie Kays Design; Douglas B. Kays/Commercial Real Estate Broker; Staples Construction; Aera Energy LLC; Green EconoMe; Mission Linen Supply Inc.; Mill Creek Capital Advisors, LLC; 95.1 KBBY; Darvik Productions; KCLU; Pacific Coast Business Times; and V3. ♦c





President Erika Beck and Lagomarsino Award recipient Russell Galipeau



Matt and Kelly Brown



Todd and Bri Wollons, Peter and Karen Wollons



Vanessa and Steve Relyea, President Erika Beck and George Leis



Sharon Hillbrant and Leah Lacayo



Title sponsor Rabobank team members with Chris Botti

# Retired Park Superintendent earns Lagomarsino Award

By Kim Lamb Gregory

**H**ELPING TO ESTABLISH THE CSUCI SANTA ROSA Island Research Station (SRIRS) is among Russell Galipeau's numerous achievements during his 15 years as the Channel Islands National Park Superintendent.

For his work on the SRIRS and because of the hundreds of CSUCI students he introduced to the

Research Station, one of only a handful of university-led research stations located in a national park and focused on undergraduate research," Beck said. "The station enables CSUCI faculty to conduct significant research projects and provides thousands of students with hands-on research experience and learning opportunities that many have described as life-changing."

Before retiring in June, Galipeau introduced hundreds of students to the raw beauty of the islands, an experience some had never had before.

"I invite any of you to go out there when the students are there and see how it changes their lives," he said. "Many of your students from Channel Islands — they've never been to the beach, they've never been on a boat, let alone an island."

From the beginning, Galipeau recognized that CSUCI's emphasis on innovative, hands-on learning aligned perfectly with the goals of the park. Plus, the SRIRS would be a rich resource for local schools as well as for researchers, educators and students from across the nation.

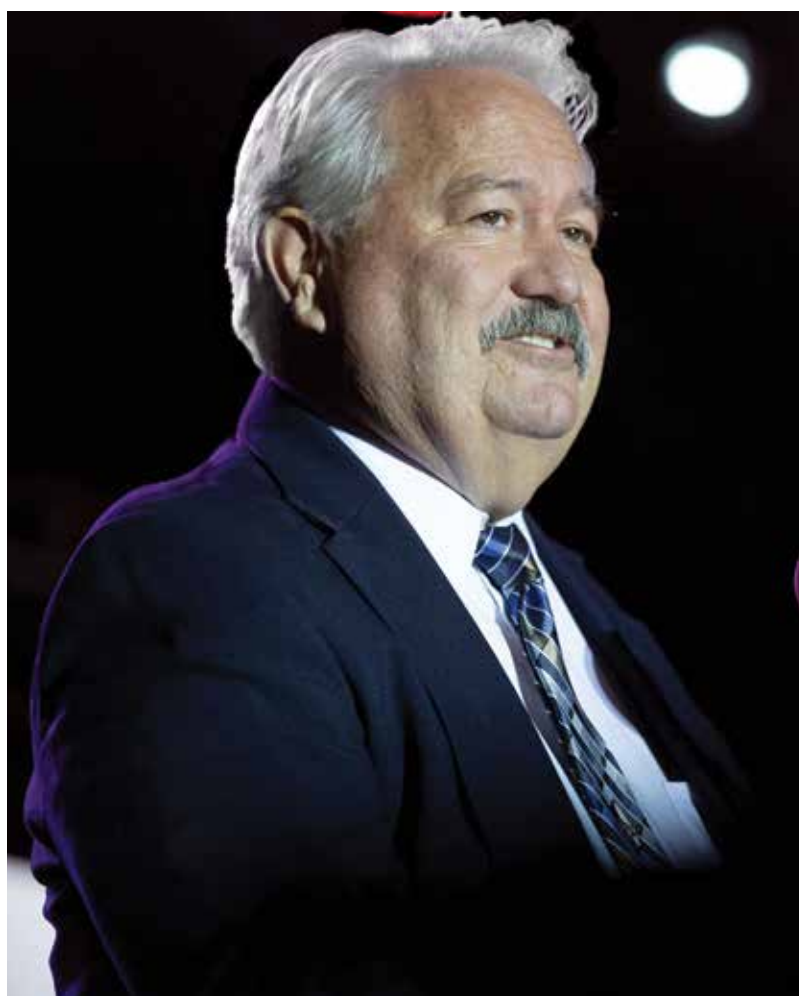
"You can't just learn with books, you have to go out and learn about the environment," he said.

Galipeau attended the University of Florida in Gainesville as a wildlife ecology major, and later joined the National Park Service, where he would enjoy a 40-year career.

Because the island is a relatively isolated environmental system, Santa Rosa Island is an ideal outdoor laboratory for researching, learning and performing conservation, such as the successful recovery of the endangered island fox.

Galipeau hopes this story of conservation impresses itself upon the next generation to be good stewards of natural wonders like the Channel Islands.

"The Channel Islands gives us a story of hope," Galipeau said. "They show us that if you cherish and want to restore something, you can do that, but you have to value it, love it, and believe it can be done." ♦c



wonder of the Channel Islands, President Erika Beck presented Galipeau with the Robert J. Lagomarsino Award during the President's Dinner & Concert on Oct. 13 at the Commemorative Air Force Museum at the Camarillo Airport.

Each year, the award goes to an organization or individual who has contributed to or supported CSUCI.

"Russell Galipeau was truly instrumental in helping CSUCI establish its Santa Rosa Island



# Making the connection

*Newest member brings 40 years of banking experience to Foundation*

By Zoe Lance

**I**N HER ILLUSTRIOUS 40-YEAR career, Lynn Pike had a front row seat to the world of banking — leading financial institutions like Capital One Bank, Bank of America and Wells Fargo. She has been recognized as one of the most powerful women in banking, and served on boards for the Los Angeles Branch of the Federal Reserve Board, the Autry National Center and many nonprofit organizations.

This year, she's thrilled to be one of the newest members of the CSU Channel Islands Foundation Board of Directors.

"I've done a lot of things in the business community, but this is about seeing young people grow their minds and their hearts, and seeing them launch their lives," Pike said. "It's exhilarating to experience that."

Pike first learned of CSUCI a few years ago when she moved to Ojai. Her friends George Leis and Lois Rice, the Foundation board's current chair and vice chair, told her about the University's mission and role in Ventura County.

In her previous philanthropy, Pike had valued education. Although she did not go to college, she'd seen its transformative power in people's lives. When Leis and Rice introduced her to President Erika Beck, Pike fell in love with CSUCI and its mission.

"As Foundation board members, we support the strategic plan, and use our experience and our connections to further the cause of the University," she said. "When I met President Beck, I thought

that this was the time for me to get engaged and be helpful."

In getting to know CSUCI, Pike has enjoyed taking campus tours, meeting students, and attending events where she can see student work. She's been struck by the strong ties to Ventura County, and how invested community members are in growing the University. She's also excited by the strategic plan and the role CSUCI will play in the future of the workforce.

"CSU Channel Islands' strategic plan is going to be game-changing

for the world of education, as well as for the students who have the privilege to attend the University," Pike said.

She's also looking forward to more student mentoring opportunities, and helping the Foundation grow and manage its endowment.

"I've seen how CSUCI connects its students to the local business community, and what a difference it makes for everyone," Pike said. "I'm able to watch that unfold. The power of the change CSUCI makes is palpable." ♦c



# A dream job forgotten — and finally fulfilled

*Kimberly Domingos, '18 B.S. Nursing*

*By Marya Jones Barlow*

**I**N HIGH SCHOOL, KIMBERLY DOMINGOS wrote a letter to her future self. When she opened it five years later, she was astonished by her teenage foresight.

“I predicted that I would have graduated from college and would be practicing nursing,” she said. “I was in awe because when the letter came I had just started taking my prerequisites for nursing. I had strayed from that path, but finally found my way back to what I wanted. That letter validated that I was on the right track.”

Today, Domingos is a registered nurse, working at Santa Barbara Cottage Hospital to care for pulmonary, renal, and infectious disease patients. She graduated in May from CSUCI with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree offered in Goleta and near Cottage Health. After completing her clinical training at Cottage, she felt right at home joining its nursing staff.

“It’s my dream job,” she said. “The teamwork and professionalism of everyone at Cottage is so inspiring. I love the patients and their families. Every day is different. As a nurse, there’s always something to learn.”

Domingos grew up on her family’s hay farm in Ventucopa, California, a town of 92 people in the Cuyama Valley. When it came time for college, she headed to San Luis Obispo and enrolled in Cuesta College to complete her nursing prerequisites, hoping to transfer and follow her older sister to Cal Poly for her degree.

She also took a job with Peacock Farms in Arroyo Grande. Over the next six years, Domingos managed the farm’s stand at regional farmers markets and helped with weddings, events and winemaking on the farm. She also found time to complete a bachelor’s degree in business online from the University of LaVerne, and met and married her husband.

In 2016 — shortly after receiving the reminder in her high school letter — Domingos got back on track to her dream job, entering CSUCI’s Nursing program with the renewed purpose of earning her second bachelor’s degree.

“I would absolutely recommend the Nursing program to anyone,” she said. “It’s rigorous and frustrating at times, but it pushes you to think



critically and independently in every situation to the best nurse you can be.”

Domingos says the program’s supportive professors, state-of-the-art simulation lab, countless volunteer opportunities, and hands-on leadership projects in the community helped mold her into a confident nurse.

Her most memorable achievements included working on a group project providing monthly public health education for families in Isla Vista Youth Projects, Inc. in Goleta, and developing a sepsis care plan for nurses at Cottage Hospital that is used in every hospital unit today.

“The best part of my job is getting to know the patients and their families and earning their trust,” she said. “I had a patient’s family member recently call me and say, ‘I’m so happy you’re here. I know he’s in good hands.’ That made me tear up. It’s great when the families end up loving you because they see how much you care.” ♦c



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Katharine and Michael Soltys  
Victoria Sonstegard  
Joaquin Soto  
Elizabeth Souza '18  
Jill Stein '14 and Justin Stein  
Joanne and Robert Stellwagen

Carolyn Stephenson  
JoAnn Stuermer  
Isabel Stumfall  
Judy and Richard Sturdivan  
Deborah Sutherland-Hocamp  
and Joe Hocamp  
Elaine and Robert Sweet  
Guadalupe Tajeron  
and Edward Alvarado  
Evelyn Taylor  
Megan Taylor  
Luke Teausaw  
Brian Thai '15  
Elaina Thanasko '07  
and Ergi Thanasko  
Barbara Thayer  
Alexia Thorley '18  
Janet Thornton  
Diane Tindall  
Karen and Terrence Towner  
Scott Trevino  
Diana Troik and Art Shaffman  
Jose Trujillo '18  
Carolyn and Ellsworth Tulberg  
Todd Turnham  
Kristina Urgel '18  
Clara Valdovinos Magana '16  
Miguel Valencia  
Kelly Dougherty  
and Kathleen Valentine  
Georgia Vallejo '06  
James Van Epps  
Michelle and  
Gregory Vance '17  
Daisy Vargas '18  
Ilse Vazquez Ortega '18  
Arantxa Velazquez '18  
Brittnee Veldman  
Carlos Velez  
Patricia and Michael Velthoen  
Deborah Vidal '18  
Vicki Vierra  
Jean Wacker  
Stephanie Wagner '12  
Joyce Wallach  
Michael Wallack '04  
Nancy Walters  
Janet and Harold Wasserman  
Kara Waycasy  
Christopher Weekley  
Debbie Weiss  
Erin Weld '16  
Erick Went  
Nancy and Carl Wesely +++  
Patricia and Robert Westberg  
Christopher Wheeler  
Melissa S. Whitacre '15  
Delia Whitaker '12  
Robert Wichmann  
Gary Wilde  
Julia Wilkerson  
Scot Willey  
Matthew Williams  
Allyson Williams  
Vanessa Williams  
Timothy Wilt  
Deborah Winston-Gold  
Margaret Winter  
Shaun M. Wise  
Patricia Wooden  
Jessica Woodman '18

Legacy Members Σ

President's Circle Members +

Five-Nine Years ++

10-14 Years +++

15-19 Years ♦

20 Years and Above ♦



Taka Yamashita  
Paula and Russell Yermasek  
Juan Zaragoza '17  
Myrna and  
Seymour Zimmerman

## GIFTS FROM BUSINESSES AND ORGANIZATIONS

13 Wishes Foundation  
Aera Energy LLC  
Al Lowe Construction, Inc.  
American Riviera Bank  
American Tooth Industries  
Andrew & Williamson  
Sales Co., Inc.  
Anonymous  
Austin, Reilley & Doud Ins.  
AVMetrics, LLC  
Bank of America Charitable  
Foundation, Inc.  
Bank of America Employee  
Giving Campaign  
Bank Of The West  
Big Bad Voodoo Daddy  
Booz, Allen, Hamilton, Inc.  
Buffalo Wild Wings  
California Los Padres Section  
of the American Chemical  
Society  
California Resources  
Corporation  
Californians for Energy  
Independence  
Canteen of Coastal California  
Inc.  
CBC Federal Credit Union  
CBIZ + MH, LLC  
Chipotle Mexican Grill  
Citizens Business Bank  
City of Camarillo  
Coast to Coast Computer  
Products, Inc.  
Cohen Begun & Deck, LLP  
Colourpop Cosmetics  
Congress of California Seniors  
Consulado de Mexico en  
Oxnard  
County Schools Federal Credit  
Union  
Crankstart Foundation  
CRESA Los Angeles  
Crest-Vest Corporation  
CSUSB Philanthropic  
Foundation  
Custom Curb, INC.  
Davidson College  
Deckers Outdoor Corp.

Delta Kappa Gamma Society  
International  
Dr. Richard Grossman  
Community Foundation  
Entangled Ventures, LLC  
Fidelity Brokerage Services  
LLC  
FileYourTaxes.com  
Franklin Templeton Giving  
Fund  
Garland and Brenda Reiter  
Family Foundation  
Gene Haas Foundation  
Golden Biotech, LLC  
Golden State Self Storage  
Gordon ILLG  
HAAS Automation, Inc.  
Harrison Industries  
Havasi Wilderness Foundation  
Healthstat, Inc.  
Hire Education Inc  
Hi-Temp Insulation  
J.P. Morgan  
Lazy Dog Restaurants, LLC  
Leavens Ranches  
Lee & Associates  
LeoneAmerica Dental  
Products, Inc.  
LightGabler LLP  
Limoneira Company  
Limoneira Foundation  
Lopker Family Foundation  
Mechanics Bank  
Meissner Filtration Products,  
Inc.  
Merrill Lynch  
Mission Wealth Management,  
LLC  
Montecito Bank & Trust  
Musick, Peeler & Garrett LLP  
Northern Trust  
Ojai Oil Company  
Pacific Western Bank  
Patagonia Inc.  
PCL Construction Services, Inc.  
People Media Group  
Pinkard Youth Institute  
Rabobank  
Radionet Corp  
Reiter Affiliated Companies  
Renaissance Charitable  
Foundation, Inc.  
RMB Enterprises  
Rogers Family Foundation  
Saalex Solutions, Inc.  
Sage Network &  
Communications, Inc.

SAGE Publications  
Santa Rosa Plaza  
Associates LLC  
Scott Family Foundation  
Sempra Energy Foundation  
Socrates Biosciences, Inc  
Southern California Gas  
Company  
Staples Construction Co. Inc.  
Sysco Ventura, Inc.  
Team Kimball Enterprises, LLC  
The Baltoro Trust  
The Benevity Community  
Impact Fund  
The Simms/Mann Family  
Foundation  
The Trade Desk, Inc.  
The University of Texas at  
Austin  
TOLD Corporation  
Tolman & Wiker Insurance  
Services, LLC  
UBS Financial Services  
Umpqua Bank  
Union Bank  
Union Bank Foundation  
United Way California  
Capital Region  
United Way of Ventura County  
University of Michigan  
University Village Thousand  
Oaks CCRC LLC  
Vanguard Charitable  
VCEDA  
Ventura County Community  
Foundation  
Ventura County Credit Union  
Ventura Investment Co  
Wells Fargo Foundation  
Yardi Systems

## GRANTS

Amgen Foundation  
ECMC Foundation  
Foundation for Child  
Development  
Gene Haas Foundation  
Martin V. and Martha K.  
Smith Foundation  
Southern California Edison  
Southern California Gas  
Company  
The Bernard Osher Founda-  
tion  
The Pentair Foundation  
Yardi Foundation

## GIFTS IN-KIND

Leilani and Jose Alamillo  
Sandra and Phil Bardos  
California Lutheran University  
Fred Camera  
George Chiarini  
Neil Coffman-Grey  
Cumulus Media  
Barbara and Wayne Davey +++  
Richard Duran  
Chad Evans  
Bijian Fan and Jerome Clifford  
Anabel Ford  
Kristine and William Forney  
Irene and Jorge Garcia +  
Tracy Hanna  
Elizabeth Hartung-Mendiguren  
and Ignacio Mendiguren  
Joan Hoarner  
Ching-Hua Wang  
and Nian-Sheng Huang  
Institution Ale Co.  
Melody Grace Kimball '10  
and Michael Kimball  
Tina Kotiv-Savitch  
Christopher Long  
Lori's Original Lemonade  
Lisa and Timothy Padilla  
The Dude's Brewery  
Frank Valenzuela  
Ventura County Credit Union  
Poh Wan  
Westlake Village Inn - A  
Cachet Hotel  
Xielo Artisan Desserts  
YTC America, Inc.  
Stephanie and Kurt Zierhut +



Darren Kettle, Louis Valdez and Richard LeRoy

2017-2018

Endowment Growth

**\$2,839,122**

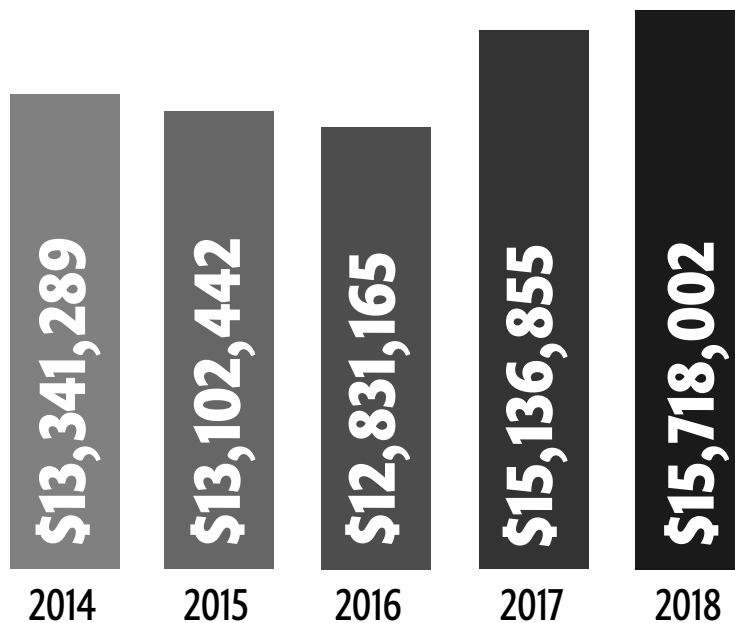
Total Dollars Raised

**752**

Number of Individual Donors

**194**

Number of Alumni Donors



## A glance at the Foundation

**A**T CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY CHANNEL Islands, we are reimagining higher education to serve a new generation and a new era. We are making a college degree, and the social mobility that comes along with it, accessible to a population that most universities traditionally overlook. And we are on a path to becoming an innovative model for the nation.

What makes CSUCI different than our peers is clear and simple. It's about who we teach, how we teach, and what our students will do when they graduate. Our students receive hands-on, immersive learning experiences that include community engagement and

partnerships with business and industry. Our faculty design programs to meet regional workforce needs and provide students with high-impact learning and collaborative, innovative practices that teach them to think critically, communicate effectively, apply quantitative reasoning thoughtfully, and work as members of diverse teams.

At CSUCI we are preparing graduates to become leaders and engaged citizens who help solve today's social problems.

The CSUCI Foundation manages endowment funds for the purpose of generating income from gifts invested at CSU Channel Islands. As of June 30, 2018, the Foundation's Endowment had a value of \$15.7 million. The Endowment has paid out more than \$628,000 in 2017-2018, directly supporting academic programs, student scholarships and student support programs such as student research. The Foundation's total assets at that date were \$25.7 million.

With the help and support of our donors, we are breaking the cycle of poverty and preparing graduates to become leaders and engaged citizens who make a difference in our communities, our state and our nation. We thank you for supporting CSUCI in this critical endeavor.

We invite you to get to know our students, faculty and staff. ♦C

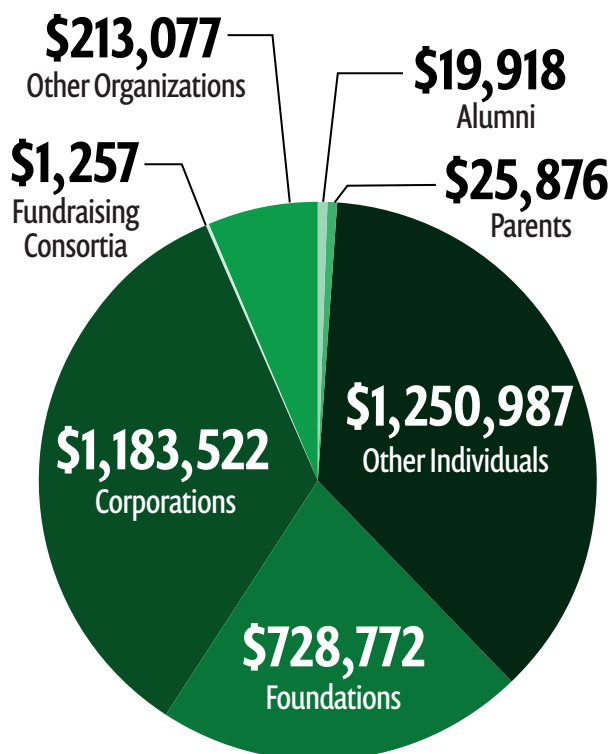
Please contact us at 805-437-1662 or [richard.leroy@csuci.edu](mailto:richard.leroy@csuci.edu) to find out how you can get involved.



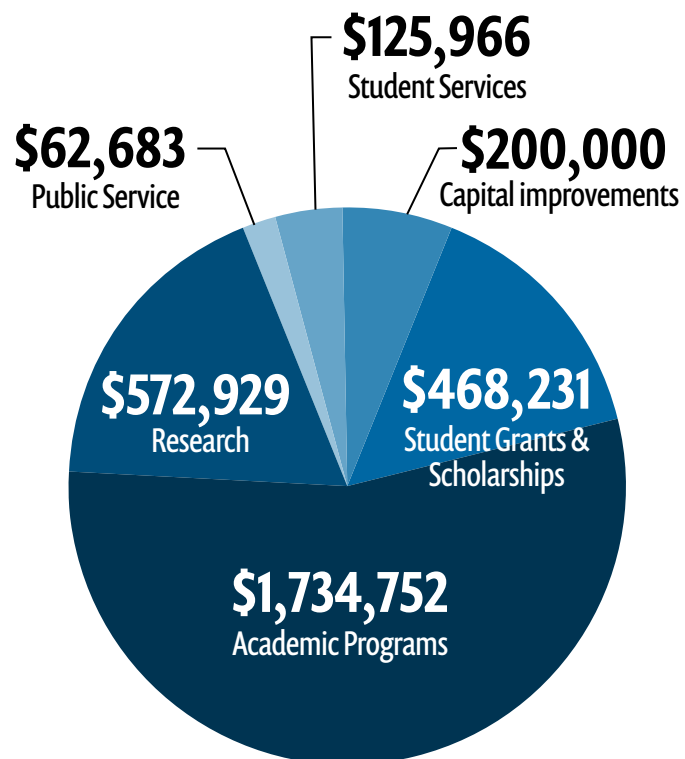
Scholarship recipients with President Erika Beck



## Donor Constituencies



## Donor Impact



## ART EXHIBIT CALENDAR

*The Oxnard Plain, featuring CSUCI students and artists from Oxnard at the John Spoor Broome Library Gallery through Jan. 31.*

CSUCI's campus and surrounding community members joined together at the Candlelight Vigil for Healing, held Nov. 27 at the John Spoor Broome Library Plaza.



President Erika Beck addresses vigil attendees



Julia Balen, Chancellor Timothy White and President Erika Beck