# CALFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY CHANNEL ISLANDS / 2020 Fall Magazine

# A Legacy S Equity and Inclusion

# Channel Fall 2020 / Vol. 25 / No. 2 / Biannual

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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.





#### **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE** A Grateful Farewell



As many of you know, in January I will be leaving Cal State Channel Islands (CSUCI) to become the President of California State University, Northridge (CSUN).

My time at CSUCI has been incredible. When I first arrived on campus four and a half years ago, I had an idea of what my experience might be like and the possibilities filled me with excitement. However, today, I realize I really had no idea just how amazing, inspirational and transformational my time at CSUCI would actually be.

Since I arrived, I have had the privilege of being a part of a campus community that holds a collective and unwavering commitment to students and their success. I have witnessed the immense generosity and grace from our faculty and staff who never lose sight of academic excellence even through fires, mass shootings and a world-wide pandemic.

I have learned that our students are the leaders of today. They have proven their resiliency and determination over and over again. I am immensely grateful to have had the opportunity to learn from them and benefit from the hope, optimism and transformational change they are imparting on our society.

Today, our campus is leading through crisis and as I reflect upon my time at CSUCI, I know this campus will emerge even stronger. Despite the challenges, our campus has increased student retention and graduation rates and remains steadfast in its commitment to our mission and values.

As you will read in the following pages, CSUCI remains nimble and responsive to the needs of our academic community. We have enacted a 7-Point Framework for Realizing Racial Justice through collective and comprehensive efforts. As COVID-19 remains a very real threat to the health and safety of our campus community, our faculty have continued to innovate their curricula to keep our students engaged and challenged in the virtual environment. Through the dedication of our supporters and donors, CSUCI continues to advance to new heights with capital projects, student support services and scholarships. This is a small portion of the work being done around our campus that is shaping our new normal.

I cannot express how much I will miss our vibrant campus community. However, I am grateful to have the opportunity to continue working alongside Cal State Channel Islands as a part of the California State University system and I will continue to cheer on CSUCI students, faculty, and staff as they work to reimagine higher education for a new generation and era.

Sincerely,

Erika D. Beck, Ph.D. President

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### **Accolades for Excellence**



The President's Innovation Awards recognize the significant innovation and contributions of faculty, students and staff in advancing the University's mission and impact.



#### Nicholas Centino, Assistant Professor of Chicana/o Studies 2020 President's Award for Innovations in Teaching and Learning

In their nomination letter for the President's Award for Teaching and Innovation, eight CSUCI faculty members paid Nicholas Centino the ultimate compliment: "May we all be so adept at serving the students in our care."

Since he joined CSUCI as an assistant professor of Chicana/o Studies three years ago, Centino has made a profound impression on colleagues and students with his fresh, fun approach to teaching and educational equity. He invites students to express their reactions to readings in spoken word poems that build confidence, creativity, activism, and public speaking skills. Centino regularly hosts Facebook watch parties and Facebook Live events, welcoming quest speakers, students,

their families, and the public to join in learning and discussion. Pre-pandemic, he and his students organized a two-day conference highlighting the lasting legacy of "Las Pachucas" — a subculture of young zoot-suited Mexican-American women in the '40s and '50s who challenged conventional notions of feminine beauty and even helped close the event in a swing dance performance. As COVID hit, Centino earned praise for his exemplary efforts to ease the burden on students of limited means through outreach and asynchronous classes.

"I tried to refocus and meet the needs of the students who were in the same spot I was psychologically, mentally and spiritually," Centino said.

#### Elizabeth Skartvedt, Course Reserves & Streaming Media Specialist

#### President's Staff Award for Excellence

As the Course Reserves and Streaming Media Specialist in the John Spoor Broome Library, Elizabeth Skartvedt plays a quiet but significant role in promoting student equity on campus. She coordinates the library's print reserves and eReserves services, which increase access to no-cost print and digital materials for students. She aligns her efforts with openCl initiatives, furthering equitable access to information that is integral to students learning.

Skartvedt's nominators said she "embodies library values of free access to information, equity for all, supporting the right to learn, and encouraging lifelong learning. She is an exemplary employee who embraces the University's mission and her commitment to student success makes a difference in the everyday lives of our students. She is for the most part hidden from view, yet most professors couldn't do their job without her."





#### **Robin Mitchell, Associate Professor of History** *Rising Author and 'Twitterstorian'*

Associate Professor of History Robin Mitchell is garnering media and critical acclaim for her new book, "Vénus Noire: Black Women and Colonial Fantasies in Nineteenth-Century France" (Athens: The University of Georgia Press, 2020). Mitchell and her work have been featured on BBC3, the History News Network, and in the New Yorker, where she was highlighted as one of the nation's prominent "Twitterstorians — historians with Twitter accounts, who have attracted big followings with their historically informed takes on the dumpster fire that is America in the year 2020." The bio for Mitchell's Twitter account, @ParisNoire, which boasts almost 8,000 followers, says it best: "19th C French Historian. Fat Feminist. Author of #VenusNoire about black women in Paris. Revolutionary. Tenured. Will block you. I cut off all my hair. She/her."

#### LaSonya Davis, Associate Professor of Nursing Inaugural President's Faculty Fellow

While learning to build her leadership capacity in higher education, the President's inaugural Faculty Fellow, Associate Professor of Nursing LaSonya Davis, will focus on helping CSUCI to foster a diverse and inclusive academic community as well as developing strategies to eliminate equity gaps for students of color. A faculty member since 2012, Davis has more than 25 years' experience as a registered nurse and over 18 as a nurse practitioner in family and women's health. Her dedication to service is evident in the classroom and community. In addition to mentoring students in "the art of caring," and treating women, children, geriatric patients and other vulnerable populations, she developed a thriving community mobile health clinic that provided free screenings, immunizations and health education to the public, while also giving students real-world clinical and community service experience. The President's Faculty Fellow program was launched this year by President Erika Beck

as an initiative to cultivate faculty leadership through the advancement of institutional mission fulfillment.

#### **Building Unity from Afar**

#### Student Government President Sophie Nguyễn and Vice President Emily Quiñonez

Long before COVID-19 tested their plans, Student Government President Sophie Nguyễn and Vice President Emily Quiñonez vowed to build unity in the CSUCI campus and community. After the pandemic forced CSU classes online, they redoubled their efforts to keep fellow Dolphins "swimming together."

"It has been a challenge to create personal connections even within Student Government, being that we are not in our office working together in the same

space," they said. "We prioritize communicating with our team and creating a warm, inclusive space so team members can connect and bond. We have found tools like social media, and Instagram specifically, to be

extremely beneficial in reaching more students. Instagram tools such as direct messaging, Question & Answer boxes, polls, IGTV, and Instagram Live have been especially great in allowing us to connect with our student body."

Their slogan, "Empower, Uplift, Unify," distills the organization's overarching vision down to three words. Nguyễn is a Sociology major, Chicana/o Studies minor and commuter student who transferred from Ventura College as a junior.

"Growing up in Oxnard as the daughter of two immigrants has instilled in me a deep sense of responsibility and gave me a passion for empowering, uplifting and advocating for fellow underrepresented students," she said.

Quiñonez is a first-generation Chicana college student from the City of San Fernando, double-majoring in Political Science and Chicana/o

Studies. As Vice President, she hopes to champion underrep-

The two elected officials work closely with a team of three executive members, nine senators, nine interns, University leaders, CSU constituents, and California state officials to advance a wide-array of priorities that include everything from educational access and affordability to student health and welfare. The Student Government team has been instrumental in promoting digital connection, racial justice, college affordability, environmental sustainability, and support for students' mental/emotional health and basic needs.

Nguyễn and Quinonez, are especially proud of encouraging student civic engagement and activism during a particularly challenging time. Though CSUCI is one of the smaller campuses of the CSU and

UC systems competing in the California Secretary of State's Ballot Bowl, it consistently garners an impressive percentage of students registering to vote. To Nguyễn and Quinonez, that is an affirmation of the value of Student Government. "Considering how challenging it can be to engage with students and build community in a virtual environment, the community we have been able to foster is something we celebrate and are continuously working to grow," they said.

ABOVE President Sophie Nguyễn RIGHT Vice President Emily Quiñonez

resented students and marginalized communities and encourage more students to "find their place on our campus."

#### THE RACIAL JUSTICE CRISIS

that has gripped the nation's attention this year has deepened CSUCI's resolve to stamp out racially-biased policy and processes on its campus.

"Our campus is not immune to the pervasiveness of systemic racism," CSUCI President Erika D. Beck, Ph.D. told a virtual audience of faculty and staff at this year's Convocation address. "The first step in combating institutional racism is in acknowledging its presence and embracing the understanding that we do not all experience our academic community in the same way."

The University has already taken steps toward dismantling racism and realizing racial justice on campus and is rolling out many more campus-wide strategies in the coming months.

Over the summer, the University's Police Department underwent training on implicit bias and de-escalation. Two campus officers are certified instructors for Principled Policing, a course focused on implicit bias and procedural justice, and will be delivering that training to CSUCI officers as well as officers throughout the CSU system. The department implemented the community public safety recommendations made by President Obama's Task Force on 21st Century Policing. A Police Advisory Council has also been formed to expand the collaboration, build trust and enhance transparency between the campus community and the campus police.

Robust and ongoing anti-racism trainings are being developed and implemented across all areas. For example, Student Affairs launched a training program in the fall called "Power, Prejudice and Identity." The program examines white privilege and implicit bias among other topics.

"Our primary goal is to provide a diversity, equity and inclusion framework for Student Affairs that is a foundation for growth, development, knowledge acquisition and skill

sets

that enhance community and ultimately student and staff success," said Associate Vice President for Student Affairs Charles Osiris, Ph.D. "Being empowered by this awareness and skill development will help us better serve our students."

Other critical campus steps include an Advancing Faculty Diversity project which is looking at ways to attract, hire and retain more diverse faculty; the hiring of three new tenure-track faculty with expertise in anti-racism and the experiences of the Black community; the creation of a new minor in Africana studies; and concentrated efforts to recruit more Black students.

Additionally, the Faculty Affairs office is overseeing several professional development workshops geared toward administrators and faculty. "There is a need for all faculty, staff and administrators to develop equity-minded competence in order to value all the wonderful diversity we have at CSUCI," said Associate Vice President for Faculty Affairs Sheila K. Grant, Ph.D.

> Read more at: go.csuci.edu/channel-rrj

**LEFT** Santi Visalli's photo of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.



#### FACULTY HAVE A FEW TRICKS UP THEIR SLEEVES TO MAKE ONLINE INSTRUCTION IN THE TIME OF COVID-19 FUN, FORMATIVE AND FAIR.

HEN CLASSES SHIFTED online last spring, CSUCI Performing Arts faculty members Heather Castillo and MiRi Park faced a challenge unique even among educators: How do you

teach students to dance when all they've got to work with is four square feet of space and a smartphone?

Fortunately, Castillo and Park had faced that problem before. Through wildfires, campus closures, and other disruptions, they've become adept at keeping CSUCI students dancing online. In the COVID-19 pandemic, they saw an opportunity not only to improve their skills, but also to share knowledge with a global community of educators and dancers trying to navigate virtual learning.

In a published guide, online workshops and webinars, the duo imparts their trials, tribulations and tips. They launched CORontine Corps, an online space for dancers from around the world to share and archive performances and virtual education best practices. They also helped start the CSU Dance Collective, a collaboration to foster virtual creative exchange between all CSU dance programs.

Their resources were so popular they received thousands of views on the web, won endorsement from the Dance Studies Association, and were adopted by universities around the world. In August, Castillo and Park earned recognition from the CSU Chancellor, who honored them with a 2020 Faculty Innovation and Leadership Award, recognizing extraordinary leadership that advances student success.

"It was an unintended special honor," said Castillo. "I was well supported at CSUCI to teach and mentor others as a Teaching and Learning Innovation faculty fellow. MiRi and I had a little bit of a head start in online instruction and wanted to use it to help the entire dance community."

Castillo, an assistant professor and veteran professional dancer and choreographer, teaches students from a makeshift studio (formerly her children's playroom) in her Thousand Oaks home. She intentionally made the space small, so her movements are restricted to match those of students joining class from cramped bedrooms and hallways. Two cameras and a large wall mirror capture her instruction from different angles, while she coaches students in real time on gallery view from her computer.

Park is a CSUCI lecturer, professional dancer, choreographer, producer and scholar. Each week she introduces new movement to students in pre-recorded videos and

then meets with the class for synchronous practice and feedback. She also incorporates a strategy developed by Castillo to connect with students in smaller group cohorts — ensuring they get individualized attention and maintain ties to each other.

While online instruction is not ideal — Castillo says it's more than three times the work of an in-person class — there are silver linings. Students who never danced before are flourishing. Experienced students say that leaving the studio, with its big wall mirrors and capacity for comparison with classmates, gives them more freedom to forge comfortable identities as dancers.

For her Dance Ensemble class, Castillo provided all 12 students with a four-footsquare cardboard box for a project she's calling, "Boxed In." Each week, students use the boxes as a stage or canvas to explore their sense of containment during COVID-19 through movement, art and journaling. Their recorded



Castillo and Park have spread their work to build online community beyond the field of dance. Answering the call to action in the Black Lives Matter movement, Park launched an educational activism project called the ReadIn series, with Castillo as co-producer. They enlisted noted Black

> actors, broadway stars and scholars to read aloud in an online read-a-thon of "Black Reconstruction in America," a resonant historical text by civil rights leader, educator, writer and scholar W.E.B. Du Bois. The series has drawn widespread interest and acclaim.

> "I feel fortunate that we can still connect and be politically, socially and physically active in this medium," Park said. "I'm proud to say that I teach at a place that values the online learning space with equity in mind."

#### EXPERIMENTING WITH VIRTUAL LEARNING

For CSUCI Chemistry professor Blake Gillespie, life is one big experiment. So, naturally, when classes moved online due to COVID-19, he embraced the pandemic as an experiment in virtual learning.

Gillespie converted his garage and backyard in Santa Barbara into makeshift labo-

video performances will be presented at the end of the year in a CSU Dance Collective virtual concert.

"I'm surprised how much they are learning," she said. "It takes more time to do it well and do it safely, but is it important that we keep doing it in this moment? Heck, yeah." ratories to perform experiments for students such as using ethanol to make gunpowder explode (with the unequivocal warning: "DO NOT TRY THIS AT HOME!"). Still, something was missing.

"Blowing stuff up in the backyard, really, I got zero positive feedback about that from students, which was deeply

LEFT A socially-distanced chemistry lab class led by Professor of Chemistry Blake Gillespie ABOVE Dancers in Heather Castillo's class work on themes of confinement



discouraging," he said. "But it cemented my conviction that students learn best when they do something, create something."

By fall, Gillespie had revamped online classes to ensure all students could "engage with their learning to be creators, not consumers."

His Molecular Structure Determination course blends in-person and online learning so students can actively participate from the lab or home. On campus — socially distanced and wearing full PPE — students learn about structure in biomolecules by growing crystals of proteins in the lab.

#### "THE REAL STORY IS THAT WE'RE ABLE TO DO SOME SCIENTIFIC HEAVY-LIFTING USING REMOTE-LEARNING TECHNOLOGIES" –Blake Gillespie

Students who are unable to come to campus can join online, in real time or asynchronously via video feed of the lab's microscopes. They help score the experiments that in-person students began and identify the best conditions for obtaining crystals.

After growing the crystals, the students mount and ship them in liquid nitrogen to Stanford Synchrotron Radiation Lightsource at the Stanford University/U.S. Department of Energy SLAC National Accelerator Laboratory. From 350 miles away, the students operate a remote-controlled robot to perform research and data collection. The virtual machine environment was set up with the help of CSUCI's Information Technology Services so all students can use the same software tools remotely, regardless of variations, disparities or inequalities in technology access.

"The real story is that we're able to do some scientific heavy-lifting using remote-learning technologies," Gillespie said. "In the grown-up world of biomolecular structure determination, folks often don't collect data manually, in person. The best facilities are remote-access, shared-use laboratories. So, our students are actually having quite a 'realworld' experience, partly because of the pandemic."

Gillespie also enthuses about some of the ways virtual learning has enriched an interdisciplinary course called "Science/Fiction" that he co-teaches with Assistant Professor of English Raquel Baker.

"Raquel and I tag team on managing the discussion, breakout rooms, and group chat," he said. "We've had some really powerful student insights about our readings, and I feel like I've grown as a result of them. Because it's all discussion/creation all the time, students step up, come ready to work, and even support us by drawing our attention to pieces we might miss, like someone raising their hand or a comment in chat. In this class, we've seen a level of excitement and buy-in that all professors dream of, regardless of delivery modality."

#### LEARN MORE

- > https://corontinecorp.heathercastillo.cikeys.com/Project/
- > TheReadInSeries.com
- View video at: go.csuci.edu/channel-virtchem

#### { **FEATURE** *Article* }

# A LEADER in Information Security

by PAMELA DEAN

EEPING CSUCI'S INFORMATION technology and computer systems secure from hackers and cyber criminals is Jim August's expertise.

He joined CSUCI as the University's new Associate Vice President for Information Technology Services and Chief Information Officer in April 2019 with more than 25

"Technology is continuously advancing, but as a smaller University, we can make significant gains by making better use of technology we already own or adopting technologies already proven by other CSU campuses."

– Jim August

years of experience. He previously served in information security leadership roles at the University of the Pacific in Stockton, California and at the Tarrant County College District in Fort Worth, Texas.

Since his arrival he has faced many challenges and implemented numerous changes within Information Technology Services, but a string of phishing attacks forced information security to the top of his list.

"Within my first few months on the job, students across the country, including at CSUCI, were hit by a series of successful phishing attacks targeting their bank accounts and financial aid," August explained. "Improving security became my highest priority."

August's team enhanced basic information technology processes for inventory management, vulnerability scanning, software patching, and expanded antivirus coverage. Student directory information was moved off the public internet to reduce phishing attacks and projects to encrypt data and deploy the DUO multi-factor authentication system were accelerated.

"CSUCI is the first campus in the CSU system to fully implement multi-factor authentication for all faculty, staff and students, giving us an excellent layer of protection against phishing and other attacks" August said.

He has led his staff of 37 full-time employees and 10 student assistants through multiple changes to improve service and increase efficiency across the University and is currently rolling out a new information technology governance process involving campus stakeholders to help guide future projects. His team has also absorbed roles from other units of the Division of Business & Financial Affairs and consolidated positions when possible to reduce costs.

During the pandemic, ITS focused on shoring up cloud-based systems to enable the University's faculty, staff and students to work remotely. They also configured and distributed over 100 laptops to faculty and staff and re-purposed nearly 300 existing laptops for distribution to students in need.

For the future of technology at CSUCI, August is guiding the University toward making better use of features in systems the campus already owns rather than investing in costly new ones.

"Technology is continuously advancing, but as a smaller University, we can make significant gains by making better use of technology we already own or adopting technologies already proven by other

CSU campuses."

# The Doctor is In

CSUCI gains a new champion for healthcare in Health Science Professor and Program Chair Sonsoles de Lacalle

by MARYA BARLOW

#### IN 2019, A NEW FACULTY LEADER ARRIVED on campus to help CSUCI prepare the next generation of healthcare professionals for one of the nation's fastestgrowing vocations.

Sonsoles de Lacalle, Ph.D., M.D., has a resume that any physician, neuroscientist and educator would be proud of: Fulbright scholar, faculty at Harvard Medical School, founding director of three university programs in biomedical sciences, published research in prestigious medical journals, presentations at international symposia, and awards from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine, to name just a few highlights.

In her newest job as Professor and Chair of CSUCI's Health Science program, de Lacalle hopes to help an already thriving Health Science program develop into a well of regional opportunity and talent.

# The world of health is more than being a physician or a nurse.

-Sonsoles de Lacalle

"It was serendipity, in a sense," she said. "I had been seeking a new challenge. I love developing programs and bringing them forth. And as a native of Spain, the Spanish influence of California resonates with me."

Health Science, formerly under the umbrella of CSUCI's Nursing program, became a stand-alone program in 2019. With the hire of de Lacalle, both the Nursing and Health Science programs are positioned to take vital next steps to ensure their growth. CSUCI Nursing, chaired by Lynette Landry, R.N., Ph.D., is one of the state's top-rated Nursing programs. Health Science, with approximately 800 enrolled students, is one of the University's most popular majors. Because entry into Nursing is so competitive, Health Science is a popular option for students still hoping to enter Nursing or other healthcare fields.

"The world of health is more than being a physician or a nurse," de Lacalle said. "There's a need to understand what makes human beings better-adapted to the environment, to be happier and more productive all around. Health Science involves fields like nutrition, exercise, ergonomics, medical records, radiology, health education, occupational therapy, behavioral therapy, public health ... the sky's the limit. A bachelor's in Health Science is a place to start to explore those potentials." De Lacalle balances her administrative role with teaching, research, publishing, and service. Outside of her classes — Careers in Health Science, Health Ethics, and a capstone research course in the fall semester — she maintains an open-door policy (albeit a virtual one during COVID-19), and encourages students to prioritize selfcare as they persist in their journey to care for others.

"For me the proudest accomplishment is watching my students thrive and take a step forward in their career," she said.

This year, de Lacalle helped CSUCI land its first National Institutes of Health grant, as lead investigator on a project called "Initiative to Enhance Diversity in the Biomedical Research Workforce at CSU Channel Islands." Joined by three CSUCI co-authors and an interdisciplinary faculty team, she will direct a three-year, \$1.1 million grant encouraging students from diverse backgrounds to pursue careers in bio-behavioral fields. The project will expose students to the broad spectrum of biomedical careers, design new curriculum and faculty development programs, and examine how those support measures contribute to student success.

"As a result of the study, CSUCI will have a better understanding of effective approaches to student engagement and mentoring, research capacity building, and faculty's contribution in the process," de Lacalle said.

De Lacalle grew up in Madrid, Spain, and became interested in medicine and neuroscience at an early age. Her younger sister, Gloria, was born mentally handicapped with structural brain damage.

"Through the effort of my parents, she was able to have a semi-independent life," she said. "That was a powerful experience, because I saw my parents taking care of her, committed to her well-being, finding the resources, and not stopping at doing their best."

After medical school in Pamplona, de Lacalle came to the U.S. on a Fulbright scholarship for postdoctoral research at the University of Chicago. That led to faculty and administrative appointments at Harvard, CSU Los Angeles, Charles Drew University, and Ohio University over the next 20 years. Among her goals at CSUCI, de Lacalle hopes to forge more internships and job pathways for Health Science students in the region.

"Any group or company that has a commitment to wellness would be a great partner," she said. "Our students can offer wellness programs for employees — programs for fitness, nutrition, cooking — you name it. It's not just about curing diseases; it's about providing preventative care."



# A Legacy of Equity and Inclusion

### **President Erika Beck's Tenure at CSUCI**

by KIM LAMB GREGORY

AFTER MORE THAN FOUR YEARS AT THE HELM OF CSUCI, President Erika D. Beck, Ph.D., will become the next President of CSU Northridge (CSUN) beginning January 11, 2021.

Beck accepted the post after four and a half years of leadership at CSUCI, noting that leaving the campus was bittersweet.

In a message to the campus community Beck stated, "It is with mixed emotions that I leave this campus," Beck said. "I have cherished the opportunity to serve as your President. Your unwavering commitment to student success, your resiliency to challenges—and we've had our share!—and your support of one another has been most impressive. Your individual and collective work truly transforms individual lives, generations of families and entire communities."

The numerous campus accomplishments that distinguish Beck's tenure at CSUCI are rooted in her belief that everyone deserves an opportunity to earn a college degree, and enough support to thrive and graduate on time. Achieving this level of equity on campus required a multi-tiered, multi-pronged effort involving students, faculty, staff and a strong connection with the community.

"As an institution, we have never been more involved or more engaged or had more conversations about diversity, inclusivity, equity and racial and social justice," said Associate Vice Provost for Student Success & Equity Initiatives Amanda Quintero, Ph.D.

#### Listening, learning and laying a foundation

Beck began her tenure at CSUCI in August of 2016 and was formally recognized and celebrated as president at her investiture in May of 2017.

"The thing I most admired about her is she took almost a year doing a listening tour of the campus," said CSUCI Foundation Board Chair George Leis. "She felt it important enough to get the students, faculty, staff, alumni, and foundation board's perspectives before she implemented her strategy."

# **President Beck's CSUCI Years**



2016

- **August 8** Erika D. Beck begins tenure as CSUCI President
- Santa Rosa Village and newly expanded Islands Café ribbon-cutting ceremony
- 17 new tenure track faculty members are welcomed to the University



- Conducted comprehensive listening tour
- Launched strategic initiatives planning process
- Largest Commencement to date 2,200 students to graduate

#### 2017

- Launched planning to meet the CSU's GI 2025 Initiative
- Established President's Advisory Council on Inclusive Excellence with Professor José Alamillo serving as founding chair
- Launched President's Staff Award for Excellence with Alison Potter receiving inaugural award
- Campus awarded fifth Tree Campus



ecognition for dedication to realthy trees

- **May 5** President Beck's Investiture
  - Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters awarded to Joe I. Mendoza
  - University welcomes 19 new tenure-track faculty members
- Regional Transfer Success
  Summit aimed at ensuring a seamless transfer to the campus
- CSUCI selected by Foundation for Student Success to serve as mentor campus for colleges and universities from Ohio, Connecticut and Colorado.
- Campus selected as one of two universities from around the world to attain the New Media Consortium's Center of Excellence Award

"She listened to community leaders, she listened to the faculty, she listened to students," said board member Lynn Pike. "With it being a public institution and the huge gap California was going to have in terms of college graduates, she was focused on that goal and mobilized everybody. She turned everything upside-down, shook everything out and reassembled it."

Beck looked to solid data when figuring out ways to support historically underserved students who were often the first in their family to attend college.

CSUCI's status as a federally-recognized Hispanic-Serving Institution (HSI) was something Beck and campus leaders took seriously. In 2019, CSUCI became one of only nine institutions in the nation and the only university in California to earn the inaugural Seal of Excelencia for facilitating the success of Latinx students.

"I think there are several things she has done to make our campus more than a Hispanic-enrolling organization, but a Hispanic-serving institution," said Program Chair and Professor of Chicana/o Studies José Alamillo, Ph.D.

For example, in 2017, Beck established the President's Advisory Council on Inclusive Excellence with Alamillo serving as founding chair.

### "She empowered me and my colleagues to speak our minds."

#### – José Alamillo

"She saw the need for more diverse leadership and she sought out faculty who were passionate about this," Alamillo said. "She empowered me and my colleagues to speak our minds. I think she really put equity front and center on our campus."

#### Inclusion at all levels

Beck also began creating spaces that reflect the campus commitment to equity and inclusion with the instal Opened Dolphin Food Pantry, established the emergency student loan program, and secured resources to address student housing insecurity



- Named one of the 10 safest campuses in the nation by Crime Stoppers
- Established Retention, Outreach and Inclusive Student Services and the Multicultural Dream Center
- Three CSUCI faculty served as CSU International Resident Directors in France, Italy and Spain
- CSUCI selected by Getty Center to host Pacific Standard Time LA/LA, a collaboration across Southern California that explored the critical importance of Latin American and Latino Art in Los Angeles

- CSUCI hosted inaugural faculty-guided undergraduate research fellows' program
- Launched new bachelor of science degree in Mechatronics Engineering
- Largest Commencement to date 2,260 students eligible to graduate

#### 2018

- **May 2018** President endorses finalized Strategic Initiatives Plan
- Launched CI Connect
- Launched inaugural climate survey
- Tree Campus USA recognition attained for sixth year
- President's Staff Award for Excellence presented to Danielle Quillan
- Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters awarded to Mary Elizabeth "Tipper" Gore and Honorary Doctorate of Laws awarded to Judge Michele Castillo

- First four-year university in California to receive Bee Campus US distinction
- Campus ranked 26<sup>th</sup> in Washington Monthly's "Best Bang for the Buck" among Universities in the West
- Ranked 9<sup>th</sup> safest campus in the nation by Crime Stoppers
- Named by Peace Corps as one of the top volunteer-producing Minority Serving Institutions
- First CSU campus to establish Z-majors
- Welcomed new Vice President for Student Affairs, Richard Yao, Ph.D.
- National Science Foundation awards campus with nearly \$200,000 to develop a model for increasing underrepresented minority faculty in STEM



lation of an exhibit in University Hall to honor Chicana artist/poet and Oxnard native daughter, Michele Serros, as well as the trail restoration/rebirth of Sat'wiwa, a sacred site of the Chumash.

Beck named Associate Professor of Nursing LaSonya Davis, DNP, FNP, as the inaugural fellow for the President's Faculty Fellow program, which is designed to cultivate faculty leadership through the advancement of institutional mission fulfillment.

"I told her 'Thank you for seeing me," Davis said. "Thank you for seeing me as a Black woman, as one of the few black faculty on this campus. Thank you for providing me with opportunity and support."

Student Government Vice President Isaiah Ball and former Student Government President Atticus Reyes appreciated Beck including students in key decisions.

"President Beck really walked the walk," Reyes said. "Everybody says 'We really prioritize students,' but President Beck really did that. When I was president, we had the Borderline shootings and the fires, and she didn't hesitate to bring the students into the fold."

#### Leadership during a crisis

The COVID-19 pandemic and campus switch to virtual learning was another crisis through which Beck led the campus.

"She kept us in the loop and said that it's going to be hard at times and there are a lot of different challenges to virtual instruction," Ball said. "And that they were trying everything they could to offer a quality education for students."

Staff leaders like former Staff Council Chair Rosario Cuevas appreciated Beck including staff voices during the fast-moving crises that befell the University such as the 2018 fires and subsequent evacuations.

"She had a special meeting of the Staff Council to talk about concerns on behalf of the staff," Cuevas said. "She made sure the entire President's cabinet and Police Chief heard about our concerns."





- College Magazine ranked CSUCI among the Top 10 colleges for surfers
- Campus hosts Migrant Summer Leadership Institute for 200 students
- Campus ranked 18<sup>th</sup> in U.S. News & World Report's listing of Top Ranked Public Schools
- Launched the Peer Mentor Ambassador Program and secured the lead gift to establish an endowment for Undergraduate Research and Creative Activities
- Created interactive data dashboard serving as a model for the CSU in measuring Student

Affairs programming impact on Graduation Initiative 2025

 Largest Commencement to date – 2,513 students eligible to graduate

#### 2019

- Earned Tree Campus USA designation for the seventh year in a row
- Established the Bedford and Dr. Irene Pinkard Multicultural Living-Learning Community
- Launched LEAD CI
- Began trail restoration for Round Mountain, Sat'wiwa, sacred to the Chumash people
- \$5 million in funding awarded



by the State of California for a feasibility study for a childcare facility and lab school that will serve as a model for expanding access to high-quality early childhood education

Opened the Michele Serros Exhibit and Collection

- Inaugural President's Award for Student Innovation presented to Melissa Soriano
- President's Staff Award for Excellence presented to Ricky Medrano
- Honorary Doctorates of Humane Letters awarded to Janice Bryant Howroyd, Deborah Santiago and Sarita Brown, and Honorary Doctorate of Laws presented to Laurence K. Gould Jr.
- One of nine institutions in the nation to attain the inaugural Seal of Excelencia for facilitating the success of Latinx students
- Ranked by Time's Money magazine as the 9<sup>th</sup> Most Transformative University in the country based on post-graduate success of alumni



When current Staff Council Chair Annie Block-Weiss took the post and met with Beck, COVID-19 had changed everyone's lives.

"With the fires and COVID-19 and everything, I told her staff morale was really low," Block-Weiss said. "She came up with virtual cupcakes that sent staff recognition through dancing cupcakes on email. I heard from a lot of the staff that the simple recognition made them feel so appreciated."

#### The campus-community connection

Throughout her presidency, Beck cultivated partnerships between the community and the campus.

The relationship between the county and the campus has strengthened during her tenure according to Ventura County Chief Executive Officer Mike Powers, who referenced the Data Analytics project as of one of the rewarding collaborations between CSUCI and the county.

"The project brought the County staff together with CSUCI students for a real-world use of machine learning and data science to analyze diabetes prevention, breastfeeding determinants and opioid prescription abuse," Powers said. "We have many CSUCI students who have participated in our internship program and have become County employees. We are grateful to have had the partnership with Dr. Beck and the University. I appreciate her enthusiasm, passion and commitment to education and our community."

Assemblymember Jacqui Irwin (D–Thousand Oaks) championed a new Mechatronics program on the floor of the state legislature and CSUCI welcomed its first Mechatronics students in fall of 2018.

"President Beck understood the need to develop a workforce that especially serves companies in the county," Irwin said. "The incredibly diverse student body at CSUCI will be exposed to an interesting and constantly evolving field that provides a good living. The profession benefits because it has historically lacked the perspective and talents of women and people of color."















- Ranked 4<sup>th</sup> best college in the nation for transfer students by the Association of American Colleges & Universities
- Secured funding for Gateway Hal
- Ombuds office established
- Established the President's Advisory Council for Cultural Protocols
- Secured a multi-million dollar gift to construct a performing arts center on campus
- Campus ranked 5<sup>th</sup> in the nation for Social Mobility
- Developed comprehensive plan to improve campus emergency communication and response including \$1.2 million to upgrade facilities

Largest Commencement to date - 2,700 students were eligible to graduate

#### 2020

- Designated Bee Campus USA recognition for second time
- Tree Campus USA recognition for eighth year
- President's Staff Award for Excellence presented to Elizabeth (Bitten) Skartvedt
- Honorary Doctorates of Humane Letters awarded to Irene Pinkard and Esther Wachtell
- Launched President's Leadership Programs Faculty Fellow program with LaSonya Davis serving as the Inaugural Fellow
- Africana Studies approved
- Established 7-Point Framework for Realizing Racial Justice
- Completion and dedication of Central Mall with newly installed permeable pavers between University Hall and Bell Tower

- Due to global pandemic, transitioned nearly every academic and student support service to a primarily virtual environment
- Launched renovation of Manzanita Hall to serve as the home of the Martin V. Smith School of Business & Economics
- Student persistence data increased
- Significant gains made in the CSU Graduation Initiative 2025 Goals moving up 7.1% points from the previous year for the First Time Full Time four-year graduate rate and reducing the Under Represented Minority Equity gap by 6.6 points
- Authorized the hiring of three new faculty whose teachings focus on anti-racism
- Launched Master of Science in Nursing (MSN)



- Record number of students eligible to graduate
- Solar panel project installation off University Drive started

#### Framework for the future

Irwin recognized that CSUCI has the potential to be a model for providing an early childhood education center, which will offer childcare for students and area farmworkers. Irwin moved this idea forward to realize a successful \$5 million ask to the legislature, which resulted in funding for a feasibility study for the early childhood education center.

Under Beck's leadership, the campus launched the largest planned capital improvement project to date — Gateway Hall at the entrance to the campus. Other projects also include the renovation of Manzanita Hall for the Martin V. Smith School of Business & Economics; a campus-wide facilities and emergency communication upgrade to strengthen campus safety and security; completion of the third phase and most recent renovation of Central Mall; a feasibility study for a mixed-use capital program; and the realization of a \$2 million bequest for a new performing arts theater. A sustainable campus was a priority during Beck's tenure, so a solar array project is being installed at the front of the University to provide 68% of the campus power load.

### "Even though I will no longer be serving as your President, know that I will be supporting your work and cheering you on!" –Erika D. Beck

Beck stressed that she leaves the CSUCI campus filled with Dolphin pride.

"I am grateful to be continuing my work alongside you in the CSU, and furthering its mission for access, equity and excellence. Even though I will no longer be serving as your President, know that I will be supporting your work and cheering you on!"

#### **CENTRAL MALL**

# A dream fulfilled

by MARYA JONES BARLOW

#### IT WASN'T THE GROUP

celebration President Erika Beck hoped for, but it was momentous nonetheless. On September 24, Beck stood on the newly completed Central Mall at CSUCI and cut a red ribbon dedicating the space to the Dolphins – past, present and future – who made it possible.

"You have helped transform this special place into the heart of the CSUCI campus," she said to supporters in a dedication ceremony held virtually because of the COVID-19 pandemic. "Thanks to you, it has become the spot where students can gather, learn and engage, and where we will celebrate the achievement of their highest educational aspirations: commencement. Once we return to campus, we look forward to celebrating this space with our students and community at many future commencements and other events that will be taking place right here."

A video of the dedication ceremony, viewable at: go.csuci.edu/ cm-dedication, captures the Central Mall and campus in majestic images and heartfelt tributes. The ceremony kicks off with a Chumash blessing led by Raudel Bañuelos, CSUCI Director of Facility Support and Chumash elder. William "Bill" Kearney, a founding supporter of the University and CSUCI Foundation Board member, shares the history of Central Mall and thanks the 1,495 donors who contributed to its evolution.

"The 60,000-square-foot Central Mall represents much more than aesthetic improvement to an already beautiful campus," Kearney said. "It symbolizes our collective hope and vision that our graduates will lead our region's future and economic prosperity."

The event closes with comments from Associate Professor of Physics Greg Wood and Student Government President Sophie Nguyễn.

"Some of my most cherished memories on our campus have been at the fun events and gatherings – connecting with students, clubs and organizations at tabling events and hanging out with friends and fellow classmates – all at the heart of our campus, Central Mall," said Nguyễn. "On behalf of my fellow Dolphins, the students of CSUCI, I would like to thank our donors and supporters for your philanthropic contributions to make all of this possible."

Renovations began in 2012 to transform the Central Mall from an asphalt roadway into a park-like pedestrian plaza. Over the next eight years, in three separate phases, it progressed with tranquil gardens with native plants, decomposed granite walkways, benches, permeable pavers, and an iconic centerpiece fountain where new students dip their hands in a shared tradition to begin their journeys as Dolphins.

The Central Mall was also expanded to welcome the growing record classes of graduates, along with their friends and families, who celebrate the conclusion of their CSUCI journeys there in the commencement ceremony. At the 2019 commencement, more than 21,000 guests celebrated a graduating class of over 2,700.

Until ceremonies can take place again in person, the Central Mall remains a quiet haven symbolizing the power and beauty of community support. The heart of the CSUCI campus is waiting to beat once again with the echoes of applause.







# INTERNSHIPS Reimagined

by PAMELA DEAN

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT Students interns Zaira Miranda, Matthew Macrini, Brittney Demello, Britnay Haddox, Federico (Fred) Quintero, Kristine Garcia, Edgar Rios-Valdez

FACING PAGE, FROM LEFT Interim Dean Susan Andrzejewski, Associate Professor Ekin Pehlivan, Director of ESBI Cynthia Sherman







HE PANDEMIC MAY HAVE PUT THE traditional summer internship on hold for many college students across the country, but Ekin Pehlivan, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Marketing in the Martin V. Smith School of Business & Economics (MVS School), saw it as the perfect opportunity to jump start a unique learning opportunity she hadn't planned on rolling out until 2021.

Micro-internships—hands-on learning projects with pay—are tailor-made for this time of social distancing and are run through the MVS School's Entrepreneurship & Small Business Institute (ESBI) under the directorship of Cynthia Sherman, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Management. then COVID-19 hit. I started hearing from students that they were losing their jobs as childcare providers, bartenders or retail workers. Some even told me they were taking out loans. This pushed me to propose a fast-tracked way."

"It was a true team effort to speed up the process," Pehlivan continued. "Interim Dean of the MVS School of Business & Economics Susan Andrzejewski, Ph.D., ESBI Director Sherman, MVS School Program Analyst Michele Morris, and Program Coordinator Paulina Rodriguez worked tirelessly to make sure the legal and payment structures were in place as we started the projects."

Similar to freelancers, the students worked from their homes on marketing-related projects for two Ventura County-based companies.



Instead of individual students heading to a company's office each day and reporting to a company supervisor, micro-internships allow students to work remotely on comprehensive projects as a team with Pehlivan serving as their supervisor.

Pehlivan was originally planning on using her upcoming sabbatical to develop and map out how the micro-internship concept would work on the CSUCI campus. But when she saw the impact the pandemic was having on many students, she proposed to accelerate the idea, and offered to run two pilot projects through the ESBI.

"We were planning to launch the program upon my return from leave as I would have prepared the structural and operational components," explained Pehlivan. "But "The students and I met virtually twice a week to check on their progress," said Pehlivan. "If they were stuck, we solved the problem together as a team, if they needed feedback we provided feedback as a team. We learned from each other's experiences this way."

Pehlivan explained she had offered these hands-on learning experiences as in-class projects for several years, but her students wanted and needed more real-world experience than a semester-long project could provide.

"One way to offer our students a path to professional careers and entrepreneurship is through the connections we build with our small business partners and industry mentors," Pehlivan noted. "Having a portfolio before they graduate puts them a step ahead of other graduates."

> READ MORE AT GO.CSUCI.EDU/CHANNEL-MICINT

#### { ALUMNI Profile }



# RESTORING CONFIDENCE, ONE PATIENT AT A TIME

#### by PAMELA DEAN

ANTA BARBARA-RESIDENT AND CSUCI alumna Diana Gutierrez is enjoying a dynamic career as a physician assistant at Aesthetic Center for Plastic Surgery. As a vital member of the center's team she assists with cosmetic and reconstructive surgeries, manages preand post-op patients and runs the practice's injectable and laser clinic.

"Plastic surgery is the most diverse specialty in the medical field because you deal with problems from head to toe and with patients ranging from newborns to older adults," Gutierrez explained. "I think there is a misconception about plastic surgery and what it means. Most of the time people associate the word with celebrities and cartoon faces and bod-

> ies. More often than not, you are restoring a smile in a child that was attacked by a dog, treating traumatic wounds, or helping a woman regain her confidence after cancer has left her without breasts. I get the most joy in seeing people smile and feel confident again."

> > Her bachelor's degree in Psychology from CSUCI and her master's degree from MGH Institute of Health Professions made her dream of working in healthcare

possible, but if the Oxnard native's parents had had their way, Gutierrez would not have attended college at all.

"I am the daughter of Mexican immigrants and the first to attend and graduate from college," Gutierrez explained. "My parents come from a cultural background where higher education was not a priority, so naturally they could not encourage me to pursue something they didn't fully understand."

Despite their lack of approval, Gutierrez persisted with her goal of earning a college degree and had every confidence her parents would one day understand.

She chose to study Psychology to fulfill her initial desire of becoming a community college counselor and helping other first generation students achieve their dreams and aspirations. She chose to attend CSUCI after taking a campus tour.

"My first impression was that the University was a hidden gem. It is a state-of-the-art facility situated on beautiful, serene land," she said. "The quality of education offered at CSUCI really stood out when I compared it to other larger universities. It quickly turned into my first choice."

Gutierrez credits Psychology Professor Virgil Adams for encouraging her to take her education to the next level.

"He encouraged me to get a master's or a Ph.D. The thought was absurd and seemed far-fetched at the time, yet here I am."

> READ MORE AT GO.CSUCI.EDU/CHANNEL-DG

{ ALUMNI Profile }

Charlie White '05 B.S. Art/

StudioArt

Excelling at games on and off the court

by PAMELA DEAN

CSUCI ALUMNI CHARLIE WHITE IS A FORCE to reckon with. A mix of brains and brawn. Both a successful professional in the hot field of video game design and a successful athlete who competes with the USA Men's Beach Handball team.

The San Francisco native graduated from CSUCI with a degree in Art/Studio Art in 2005. But that was his second bachelor's degree. His first was from Vanderbilt University where he majored in Sociology and played on the division one soccer team with his identical twin brother.

After graduating from Vanderbilt, White decided he wanted a career in the art and design field. He searched for a school with a strong art program that would provide him with the tools he needed to launch his creative endeavors. CSUCI fit the bill.

"CSUCI had just opened and I really appreciated the individual attention the Art program showed me when I came to visit," White said. "After seeing the Art computer lab, I was sold. I also saw they had a surf class with Jack Reilly, the Art program chair, and that sounded great too."

Since graduating, his career in video game design has thrived. He has worked as an interactive and user experience

designer for a variety of companies both in Los Angeles and the Bay Area.

During a stint working for Disney, White started hearing about innovative companies in the Bay Area with unique and compelling work cultures.

"You could bring dogs to work and they were flying remote control helicopters around the office. It sounded like something new and a fun place to work."

White landed a job with Zynga in San Francisco and went on to help create and operate CityVille, the biggest video game ever made at the time with over 84 million monthly players on Facebook.

"It was a wild time, I remember NASDAQ setting up in the building to ring the bell to open the stock market the day we went public," White recalled.

Today, he is a principal UX designer for Scopely in Culver City where he helps develop the strategic vision for new games and features as well as the plans to meet the company's objectives. Currently he is part of a team working to make Scrabble GO a top game in the mobile market.

> READ MORE AT GO.CSUCI.EDU/CHANNEL-CW

{ **ALUMNI** *Profile* }

#### MICHELLE GATTO WITHEY, '11 B.A. COMMUNICATION

# **FROM MARKETING GOALS** to entertainment management reality

#### by PAMELA DEAN

ICHELLE GATTO WITHEY DIDN'T always have her sights set on becoming a marketing executive. In fact, the Newbury Park native originally thought she wanted to be a talent agent. But an internship changed her mind.

"In my senior year, I took an internship in marketing at Paramount Pictures where I worked on trailers,

posters, etc.," Gatto Withey explained. "I figured it would look good on a resume and make me more well-rounded as an agent, but as it turned out, I absolutely loved the creative advertising side of the business. They offered me a full-time position once I graduated."

She has ascended the entertainment marketing ranks ever since.

The 2011 grad who majored in Communication and minored in Business, moved from Paramount to DreamWorks Animation, then to an ad agency and finally to her current

home at The Walt Disney Studios, where she is now the Director of International Creative. She oversees a team that develops all advertising materials, such as posters, billboards, trailers, TV and radio spots, mall exhibits and museum displays, used to market Disney films around the world.

It was no easy task landing a job at Disney. Gatto Withey beat out 300 applicants for her initial position as Manager of International Creative Print Services. "Even though the numbers were stacked against me, I still went for the interviews — all four of them," she recalled. "Through this process, I was very upfront about my skills and about my aspirations to do more than print down the road. I wanted to get back to my roots working on trailers and TV spots and beyond. I believe that showing my passion in this way is why I was offered the



position. I started working with their international print team, leading campaigns like Rogue One, Pirates of the Caribbean and Star Wars to name a few."

Gatto Withey explains her skills and dedication were quickly recognized, and she continued to hold fast to her promise of wanting more.

"I asked for more work which to my excitement now included travel to places like Mexico City for focus groups, Philadelphia for photoshoots, or the crowning jewel — traveling to Paris to personally take Tim Burton through an exhibit I had designed about the history of his

work and his upcoming film, Dumbo."

She was eventually promoted to her current executive position where she is in charge of producing creative materials for more than 50 markets world-wide.

Gatto Withey's advice for anyone looking to enter the entertainment marketing field includes networking, hard work, speaking up and being flexible. ALUMNI Profile

BRENDA BRAVO '10 B.A. LIBERAL STUDIES, '10 B.A. SPANISH; '18 M.A. EDUCATIONAL LEADERSHIP AND DUAL P-12 CREDENTIAL CONCENTRATION

No Fear of Failure

by PAMELA DEAN

**P**RENDA BRAVO'S FIERCE DETERMINATION to succeed helped her overcome the many obstacles she faced during her journey to higher education and a successful career as a high school principal.

Born in Mexico, the fifth of six daughters, Bravo's family came to the U.S. when she was three, eventually settling

in Oxnard. Neither one of her parents graduated from high school, or even elementary school. In spite of the challenges of being a teen mom, she earned a 4.0 GPA in high school, graduated with honors and went on to become the first in her family to attend a four-year university.

Bravo's path through CSUCI was not easy either. Her second daughter was born while she was a freshman. But having two small children to care for did not stop her from double majoring in Spanish and Liberal Studies with an

emphasis in Bilingual Education. In 2010 she graduated magna cum laude.

"Attending CSUCI was one of the best decisions I ever made because it's where I met my mentors, Dr. Kaia Tollefson, Dr. Kathleen Contreras, Dr. Charles Weiss and others who have been my inspiration and motivation to keep moving forward," Bravo explained.

In fact, Bravo credits Education Professor Tollefson with inspiring her to pursue a graduate degree and move from teacher to administrator. "Growing up I did not see myself reflected in the leaders at my school, so becoming an administrator was never in my plans," Bravo said.

While working as a fourth grade teacher at Oxnard's Tierra Vista Elementary, she was invited to attend CSUCI's Critical Friends Group summer institute led by Professor Tollefson.

It was there she realized she could aspire to do more.

"I learned about the education gap, equity issues and the need for more Latina leaders in education," Bravo explained. "We discussed the need for a mentorship program to support young teachers and match them with educational leaders in the county. This is where CSUCI's Lacayo Vista Leadership Academy was born. I was part of the first cohort of mentees. Kaia was the first to believe I could do more."

After this class, she decided to pursue a graduate degree. However, another potential road-

block threw itself into her path. Just one week before being accepted into CSUCI's Educational Leadership master's program, Bravo discovered she was expecting her third daughter.

With the full support of the program's faculty, she was able to begin and complete the program on time, graduating in 2018 with an M.A. in Educational Leadership along with a dual P-12 Credential Concentration. She is now the proud principal of Rio Plaza Elementary in Oxnard.

> READ MORE AT: GO.CSUCI.EDU/CHANNEL-BB

HE DATA SCIENCE THAT TRANSFORMED THE Trade Desk (TTD) from a two-person startup into a \$40-billion dollar global enterprise can be used to address inequities in society, according to The Trade Desk's Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and co-founder Jeff Green.

Green built The Trade Desk based on data science, and wants to use that same approach for the world of disparity looking at data on why students drop out and what interventions are effective. This way, philanthropists like Green can target their gifts where they will have the most impact.

Green agrees that CSUCI's peer mentorship programs are among the University's most powerful strategies to support students from their first day as a freshman to their last day as a senior as they graduate—on time.

After COVID-19 hit, the Jeff Green Family Foundation made a \$250,000 gift to strengthen the University's peer mentorship programs like PEEP (Peer Education & Equity Program), which provides peer mentors for students who are the first in their generation to attend college.

Green offered several reasons as to why he decided to invest in CSUCI.

#### "There is a lot of diversity in our community and there are very few places where that all comes together. CSUCI is one of those places."

-JEFF GREEN

"First, I believe in the students. We've hired a lot of CSUCI students at The Trade Desk. They're scrappy, hardworking and well-educated," Green said. "Second, I believe in the leadership at CSUCI. Since the school wasn't founded that long ago, there is a chance to rethink and reimagine higher education. I believe CSUCI is doing what others would do if they could hit the reset button. And they have the leadership to do it."

The Green Family Foundation gift made it possible to hire 15 new peer mentors for the fall 2020 semester and to support a staff position to help keep the peer mentor infrastructure strong.

The foundation then contributed an additional \$250,000 in a tiered scholarship fund designed to encourage CSUCI students to stay in school.

Staying in school to graduate on time is central to a student's success, so President Erika Beck was especially pleased to see students get this kind of support from Green. "I am incredibly grateful to have a community partner who is dedicated to utilizing data to drive philanthropic support in a manner that optimizes impact on student success," Beck said. "His deep commitment to equity and inclusion, not only supports our University's work, but also supports his efforts in creating a diverse and inclusive workforce."

The program was set up so that qualified recipients would receive increasing amounts of scholarship funding each year they remained in college.

Ten CSUCI freshmen were identified to receive just under \$1,500 for the fall and spring 2020 semester for a total of \$2,940 per freshman. Fifteen sophomores were chosen to receive a total of \$3,920 for both semesters. Fifteen juniors have been identified to receive almost \$2,500 per semester to total \$4,900 and 15 seniors have been tapped to receive a total of \$5,880 per student during their last year at CSUCI.

To qualify, students with a demonstrated financial need were required to have 3.0 grade-point average or above and had to be enrolled for at least 15 credits.

The Trade Desk and the Jeff Green Family Foundation's generosity actually began in December of 2019 when both entities provided a total gift of \$105,000, which funded 75% of the peer mentor ambassadors.

During the spring 2020 semester, the peer mentor ambassadors served 138 unique students of which 94.2% have either graduated or are currently enrolled in fall 2020 classes.

Despite economic pressures of the pandemic, 91.9% of all CSUCI students enrolled in spring 2020 either graduated or returned for classes in fall of 2020.

Green said another reason he gave to CSUCI is because of the larger community.

"I believe in our community," he said. "There is a lot of diversity in our community and there are very few places where that all comes together. CSUCI is one of those places. I think the greatest hope for any community is to educate its citizens well—all of them."

An anonymous survey from peer mentor ambassadors during spring of 2020 suggests the impact of the foundation's gift to support peer mentor ambassador stipends was significant.

"My family and I can sleep knowing we do not have to occasionally budget our groceries to ensure that we have enough money to pay for rent," the student wrote. "This sense of security means that my younger sister and I can place all of our energy in doing our best as students."

# Building a better university with data

The Trade Desk CEO Jeff Green uses data science for CSUCI philanthropic gifts

(::

by KIM LAMB GREGORY

**DONOR** Profile }

# A Courtyard Honor

#### by PAMELA DEAN

CSUCI RECENTLY NAMED A COURTYARD AFTER one of its longtime and most dedicated supporters, Linda Dullam. Previously referred to as the Archives Courtyard, the newly named Dullam Courtyard sits in the southeast backside corner of the John Spoor Broome Library and is the site of many campus celebrations.

"I am so pleased we are able to honor Linda in this way," said President Erika Beck. "She has been a champion of CSUCI for many years and was instrumental in the creation of so many of our philanthropic organizations and events. This courtyard is a beautiful reminder of her dedicated service to our campus community."

Dullam has had an immense impact upon the University. Her involvement began more than 20 years ago when, as a vocal supporter of bringing a public university to Ventura County, she started rallying community support and fundraising for the fledgling campus. She even gave presentations at several local high schools to recruit students.

Dullam and her late husband John were the former owners of Mandalay Berry Farm in Oxnard. The energetic dynamo took an early leadership role in many important projects in support of the University including serving as an original member of the Foundation Board where

CSUCI RECENTLY NAMED A COURTYARD AFTER her agricultural roots continue to bring an important one of its longtime and most dedicated supporters, Linda perspective.

She helped launch, and has many times chaired, the President's Dinner, CSUCI's most important annual fundraising event. She helped establish the President's Circle and create the University's first scholarship awards. She also served on the Development Committee and Landscape and Courtyard Restoration subcommittee which helped renovate and beautify many of the campus's courtyards in the early 2000's.

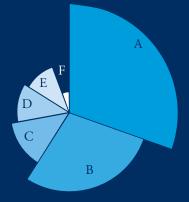
This is not the first recognition Dullam has received in appreciation for all she has done for CSUCI. She was given the 2006 Robert J. Lagomarsino Award, one of the University's highest honors, for her contributions and support of CSUCI and higher education.

"Thank you to my CSUCI friends for the lovely honor," said Dullam. "It has been a true pleasure to work on behalf of this great University over the years, helping it to grow and succeed. I hope the courtyard will host many happy gatherings in the years to come. I would love to see a sign on the wall that says 'stop wishing and start doing."

Indeed, that is exactly what Dullam has done for CSUCI over the past two decades.

### 2019-20 California State University Channel Islands

# **Foundation Annual Report**



#### DONOR IMPACT

A Unrestricted	\$1,39
B Growing the Campus	\$1,14
C Academic Programs	\$52
D Student Support	\$45
E High Impact	\$42
Learning Practices	
F Affinity Groups	\$4
and Programming	

Total \$3,991,065

3,297 2,250 23,741 6,594 7.836

7.347

# INDIVIDUAL DONORS



TOTAL DOLLARS Raised



# C D F B A

#### DONOR GROUPS

A Other Individuals	\$2,876,168
B Corporations	\$435,832
C Other Organizations	\$364,482
D Foundations	\$281,582
E Alumni	\$26,102
F Parents	\$6,898

Total \$3,991,065

# The Year in Review

In spite of the uncertainty experienced in 2020, the CSU Channel Islands Foundation had a successful fundraising year. Overall philanthropic donations to the Foundation topped out at \$3.99 million, a 5% increase over the previous year. Many generous foundations stepped up with financial support of the University's Ekho Your Heart disaster relief fund, which has been providing grants to students experiencing unexpected financial hardships due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The 2019/2020 fiscal year also brought the welcome addition of new Foundation Board members Cheryl Broome, Mark Lisagor and Jonathan Wang.

The Foundation manages CSUCI's endowment funds with the intent of generating additional income from the philanthropic gifts given to the University. As of June 30, 2020, the Foundation's Endowment had a value of \$15.6 million. The Endowment paid out more than \$700,292 in 2019-2020, directly supporting academic programs, student scholarships and student support programs such as the Peer Mentor Ambassador program and student research. The Foundation's total assets at that date were \$26.5 million.

Major gifts were received in support of the Peer Mentor Ambassador program, the Santa Rosa Island Research Station and undergraduate research and creative activities.

#### Other highlights from the year included:

- The second annual senior class gift which saw our generous graduating students give 662 gifts totaling \$7,745 in support of CSUCI's hot meals program and their classmates in need. This was a 12% increase in money raised and a 9% increase in participating donors over the previous year
- > The establishment of an endowment for undergraduate research
- A generous legacy gift from former educator Jeanne Adams
- The second installment of a multi-million dollar legacy gift that will help the University build a performing arts center

"The impact of COVID-19 has created a myriad of significant challenges for our students to overcome," said Nichole Ipach, Vice President for University Advancement. "We are tremendously grateful for our community's ongoing support as it will continue to be critical to the retention and success of our students, many of whom are first in their families to attend college."

#### On behalf of the students, faculty and staff, we gratefully acknowledge the following donors.

These charitable gifts in support of CSU Channel Islands were made from July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020. Every gift makes a difference and every donor is appreciated. *Thank you!* 

#### LEGACY GIVING

Anonymous § Jeanne Adams ° Tim Allison Janice and Marshall Applegate Stephen Arneson Libby Barrabee ‡ Megan Bell Judy and Steve Block **Jeffrey Boyle** Bijian Fan and Jerry Clifford Linda Dullam **Catherine Harrington** Nichole and Dallas Ipach § Joyce Kennedy ◊ Norma and Robert Lagomarsino ° Kim Lamb-Gregory and Jeff Argabright Philippe Larraburu <sup>+</sup> Terri and Mark Lisagor ° Beckie and Owen Lubow Thomas McKiernan Carole and Douglas McRae ‡ Pat and Rick Metheny Lynda Nahra and Claude Dorais <sup>+</sup> Susan Part Louise and Neil Paton ‡ **Phyllis Pattison** Anna and Fletcher Pavin ° May Porter <sup>+</sup> Dee Press and Marianne Slaughter Patricia Richards Dodds and Thomas Dodds  $\diamond$ Grace Robinson ‡ Rhonda and Donald Rodriguez Karen Romney Juan Ros Vicki and Richard Sharp Howard Smith Sheila and John Suarez §

Barbara Thorpe Cartee ° Tina and Louie Valdez ‡ Laurie and Gary Wartik Nancy and Carl Wesely § Kathleen Wulf §

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Ventura County Community Foundation Verizon, Inc. Karen and Peter Wollons ++

#### **MAJOR GIFTS**

Anonymous <sup>+</sup> Anonymous <sup>+</sup> JJ and Jim Birkenshaw <sup>+</sup> Cheryl and John Broome <sup>°</sup> Linda Dullam <sup>\* °</sup> Rod Gilbert <sup>‡</sup> Jeff Green <sup>+</sup> Betsy and John Grether <sup>°</sup> Dorothy Scott <sup>°</sup> Judith and Jack Stapelmann <sup>+</sup>

#### \$10,000-\$24,999

Margo and Jeffrey Barbakow <sup>+</sup> Susan and Bob Brown <sup>+</sup> Christine Garvey and George Gelles <sup>‡</sup> Philippe Larraburu <sup>\* +</sup> Terri and Mark Lisagor <sup>\* °</sup> Nancy and Theodore Nedderman <sup>+</sup> Lynn Pike<sup>+</sup> Richard Rush ◊ Keith Westcott <sup>+</sup> Karen and Peter Wollons <sup>‡</sup>

#### \$5,000-\$9,999

Jeanne Adams \* ° Erika Beck and Joshua Travers † Marguerite and Jeffrey Browne ° Joan and Dennis Gaiser ° Cathryn and Thomas Krause † Deidra and Paul Lopez † Lynda Nahra and Claude Dorais \* † Lois Rice † Ila and Fred Rothenberg † Tina and Louie Valdez \* ‡ Esther and Thomas Wachtell ° Patricia and Andrew West † Zohar and Jason Ziv ‡

\$1,000-\$4,999 Anonymous § Anonymous † Anonymous \* § Eugene Andreasen ° Libby Barrabee \* ‡ Celina and Amir Biniaz § Steven Blois ◊ Nancy and John Borchard ° Edith and Sieg Borck ‡ Margaret and Kevin Carey § Betsy Chess † Joanne Coville and Steve Stewart ◊ Lauren '08 and Kevin Cruz '08 ‡ Carrick Dehart ‡ Leonard Dryer <sup>+</sup> Dianne Duva + Vicki Engard § Carol and Handel Evans ° **Genevieve Evans Taylor** and Curtis Taylor ‡ Therese and Peter Eyermann § Karen and Glen Farr ◊ Nancy Gallagher <sup>+</sup> Christine Garvey and George Gelles ‡ Lydia and Grant Geissman § Eva '09 and Armando Gomez ‡ Carol and Allan Gottlieb ‡ Cyrus Gregg Brooke and Philip Hampton § Sharon and Clint Harper ‡ Ruth Hemming <sup>c</sup> James C. Henry <sup>+</sup> Sharon and William Hillbrant § Carol Holder and John Mallinckrodt ◊ Nichole and Dallas Ipach \* § Jacqueline and Jon Irwin Janet and John Jacobs ‡ Karen Jensen and Don Frazeur § Elise and William Kearney ° David Korse Beryl and Neil Kreisel + John Krist <sup>+</sup> Linda La Frenz + Leah Lacayo ◊ George Leis ‡ Jill LeMieux and Richard LeRov<sup>+</sup> Julia Newman and Saul Lessler ° Stella and Hillary Ling § Carolyn Locke § Doug Lutz <sup>+</sup> David Maron <sup>‡</sup> Neil Matsumori ° Laura McAvoy and Sol Chooljian <sup>o</sup> Frances McNeill + Margaret Meehan and Joaquin Nunez ° Barbara Meister ° Patricia Michaelson ° Nicki and Michael Morris § Peter Mosinskis <sup>+</sup> Diane and Doug Off ° Joan and Gerald Olsen + Stephanie and John Orr + Pilar Pacheco + Brenda and Robert Parry § June and Clayton Paschen ◊ Anna and Fletcher Pavin \* °

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#### \$1-\$499

Kathleen Abasi '19 Loren Abasi Arlene Acevedo '19 Ashley Adams Beverly and Clifford Aggen Ani Agopian '20

**LEGEND** \*Legacy Members + President's Circle + Five to Nine Years \$ 10 to 14 Years \$ 15 to 19 Years \* 20 Years & Above Every effort has been made to post a complete and accurate list. Please report errors to the Development office at 805-437-3683.

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# Why I Give ~ **DANA BAKER**

"I give because I believe in social justice, institutional growth, and community responsibility. CSUCI is a place of dreams...people come here to have their lives changed and to change lives. Giving to Basic Needs ensures students can learn and focus on their intellectual



Vaisman

and personal growth rather than their day-to-day survival. Our brilliant students are teeming with potential. It is a loss to all when their flourishing becomes compromised by economic circumstances! Giving to the Master of Public Administration is an investment in a dream for CSUCI. While the MPA program has yet to be established, we dream of providing graduatelevel training to current and prospective public servants from Ventura County and beyond. Investing in the future of good governance is both a necessity and an honor at this moment in history." — Dana Baker, Program Chair and Associate Professor of Political Science

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# Why I Give ~ ANDREW SALINAS



"The primary reason I established the scholarship was to allow the legacy of my mother, Mayra Aguirre, whose shortened life was dedicated to helping others, to be carried on not only by her children but by those who face the same challenges as she did.

She was a single mother of three and put herself through nursing school while maintaining a full-time job. We want those who may come from less fortunate backgrounds to have the resources to advance their education in the Nursing program so they can begin making a difference as my mother did. My mother not only used her nursing degree to help others but used her bilingual skills to assist families who needed help better understanding the medical process." — Port Hueneme Police Department Chief of Police Andrew Salinas

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Melissa Luna '19

Kelley Lynch '16

Laine Lyzak '20

Beatrice Lutterbeck

Donna Luskin

John Lu

Irene Lucero

Jaquelyn Lozeau '20

### Why I Give ~ DIANA ENOS

"Giving to the University is a way I am able to support programs that inspire me or I believe in that are different from my daily work and involvement with the campus. The giving program provides flexibility to change or add to my designation as our student needs change and this flexibility is another draw for me." — Diana Enos, Interim Associate Director for Human Resources

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Frances McNamara '19

Mackenzie Meachim '20

Malcolm McNeil '19

**Dylan McNey** 

Ed McSweeney

### Why We Give ~ BIJIAN FAN and JERRY CLIFFORD



"We believe in helping some of the young people who don't have the opportunities we had. CSUCI's focus on the local students—particularly bringing first-

generation college students into the university and trying to change lives and families—is commendable." — Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) at CSU Channel Islands Instructors Bijian Fan and Jerry Clifford

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### Why I Give ~ PILAR PACHECO

"The Bracero Scholarship grew out of the Bracero Oral History Project, a service-learning project created in collaboration with the Smithsonian National Museum of American History and involved many campus areas and community organizations. The project allowed students



American History and involved many campus areas and community organizations. The project allowed students to collect and document stories of the Bracero Program, an especially important chapter in Ventura County's history as local fields and orchards received more Braceros (over 5,000) than any other county in the United States. And yet little was known or shared about the

"The Bracero Scholarship was created by CSUCI students who sold t-shirts to fundraise for the first scholarship. I donate to it because it allows me to continue to honor the Braceros' legacy, their families and their stories by awarding the scholarship to a student with a familial connection to the Bracero Program. And it gives me an opportunity to pay it forward to a student who embodies the same strength and fortitude as their ancestors, and dedication and commitment to themselves, their education and the community." — Pilar Pacheco. Director, CSUCI Center for Community Engagement

Janine Tadiaman '20 Edward Alvarado and Guadalupe Taijeron Camille Taillon Eunice Tak Venus Tamayo Yarida Tamayo '18

program."

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# Why I Give ~ JEFF GREEN FAMILY FOUNDATION and THE TRADE DESK

"I believe in our community. There is a lot of diversity in our community and there are very few places where that all comes together. CSUCI is one of those places. I think the greatest hope for any community is to educate its citizens well-all of them." - The Trade Desk's Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and co-founder Jeff Green

> Read more on page 28 of this issue





> Professors Matt Furmanski (top left) and Marianne McGrath (bottom right) teach their studio art classes in outdoor and ventilated classrooms for safer in-person instruction

View video at go.csuci.edu/channel-virtart











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### President's Circle

impact is profound!

An annual donation of \$1,000 or more qualifies you for a CSUCI President's Circle membership. Since its founding in 1999, the President's Circle has helped bridge the gap

between state funds and the private support required to meet the needs of our rapidly growing University. Your gift goes



the needs of our rapidly growing University. Your gift goe toward direct financial support for students, enhancing academic programs and addressing CSUCI's most urgent priorities. The

> Richard Yao, Ph.D. CSUCI Interim President Jan. 2021



#### Support through the President's Circle has

• Provided the necessary equipment to create 3D-printed face shields to help local medical professionals;

 Helped launch new degree programs, such as the region's first Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree, which prepares students and alumni to serve as essential health care employees in Ventura and Santa Barbara Counties;

> Provided financial support to CSUCI students impacted by COVID-19, including support for students facing food and housing insecurities.



To learn more about our President's Circle, please contact Eva Gomez at 805-437-3271 or <a href="mailto:eva.gomez@csuci.edu">eva.gomez@csuci.edu</a>, or visit <a href="mailto:go.csuci.edu">go.csuci.edu</a>, or visit <a href="mailto:go.csuci">go.csuci.edu</a>, or visit <a href="mailto:go.csuci">go.csuci</a>, or visit <a href="mail

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