



Fall 2025

Scholarship Newsletter



Letter from the Dean



Greetings, College of Communications Supporters!

It is with great Titan Pride that I introduce you to the 2024–2025 outstanding scholarship recipients from across our College's four departments: Cinema and Television Arts, Communication Sciences and Disorders, Communications, and Human Communication Studies.

Thanks to your continued commitment and generosity, scholarship funding empowers our students to pursue their academic and co-curricular goals, culminating in the achievement of a college degree. The mission of the College of Communications is to prepare communicators to advance a democratic society. Today, that mission feels more vital than ever, as our communities and industries depend on well-trained, ethical, and engaged communication professionals.

A university education is transformational, opening minds to new ways of thinking and opening doors to personal and professional opportunities. I know it was for me, as a first-generation college student at a public university. Each day, we see that same transformation in our students: a cinema and television arts major gaining confidence behind the camera; a speech-language pathology student helping a child find their voice; a public relations student using creativity to inspire change; a forensics team member refining their speech and debate skills while gaining national recognition at a competition.

Cal State Fullerton continues that proud legacy of access, affordability, and excellence, transforming lives every day. Because of your support, Titan students today will become the successful professionals and community leaders of tomorrow.

If you have questions about any of the scholarships or would like to learn more about our current initiatives, please contact Courtney Lutkus, Director of Development, at 657-278-4173 or clutkus@fullerton.edu.

With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Jason M. Shepard".

Jason M. Shepard, Ph.D.
Dean

College of Communications Scholarships



Reilly Cleaver
Bergstrom Family
Scholarship



Monet Andrade
Brown Family
Scholarship



Lationette Vester
Denise Harrison
Integrity Award



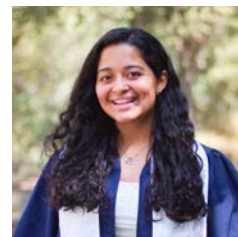
Emily Castro-Luis
Lucio Villa
Scholarship



Jenna Diaz
Mona A. Baset
Scholarship



Jocelyn Ramos
Tien Family
Scholarship



Samantha Brugman
Viet Dzong Human Rights
Scholarship

Hugo Quezada
Bergstrom Family
Scholarship

Jenna Uemura
Guadalupe Austin
Scholarship -

Isabella Lyons
Hennessey Family
Scholarship

Gabbi Gutierrez
Sha-Aeschelmann
Study Abroad Scholarship

Abby Osorio
Viet Dzong Human Rights
Scholarship



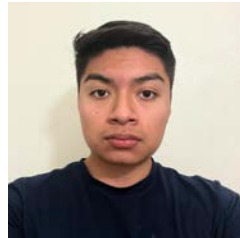
John and Jessie Maxwell Communications Scholarship



Abigail Miller



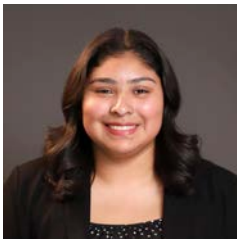
Abigail Cordobes



Alexander Ruiz



Allison Jo Adrid



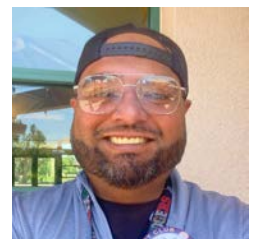
Audrey Lopez



Cassidy Apolo



Gavin Ong



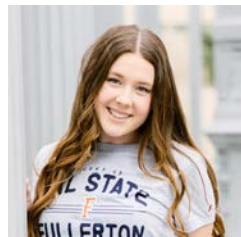
Gerardo Chagolla



Giovanni Torres



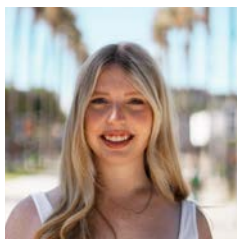
Haley Lopez



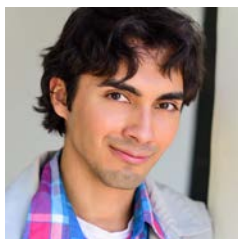
Indie Von Martin



Jaime Espinoza-Wolff



Jessica Cargin



Johnny Ramos



Justin D. Rosette



Katia Razo

John and Jessie Maxwell Communications Scholarship (continued)



Lucas Garcia



Maryam Zaryab



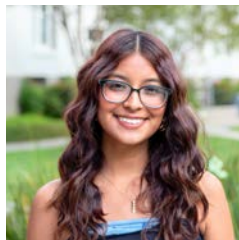
Mia Godinez



Monet Andrade



Nicolas Karoglu



Nicole Anita

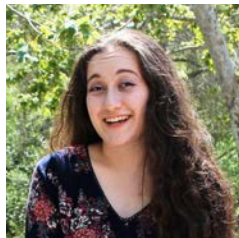


Rachel Lopez

**Abby Osorio
Adrian Louis Meza
Cecilia Ordaz
Colin Costigan
Destiny Morris
Gabrielle Hannah
Isabella Lyons
Isabelle Quinn
Joseph R. Jauregui
Josie Lavallo
Kylie Griffin
Mahya Jalali
Mia Mendoza
Sol Granados
Vi Nguyen
Vivian Tran
Yarelli Escareno**



Raniel Santos



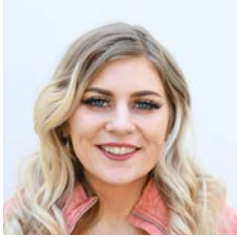
Sofia Johnson



Zeina El Haty



Department of Cinema and Television Arts Scholarships



Makenzie Jean Bice
Bergstrom Family
Scholarship and
Lorenzo Soria Golden Globe
Scholarship



Reilly Cleaver
Bergstrom Family
Scholarship and
Linda Giffin Citron
Scholarship



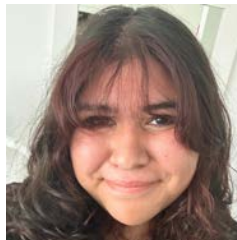
Dylan Mrakich
Cinema & Television Arts
Scholarship



Amber Reese
Daniel and Heather Smith
Scholarship



Allison Jo Adrid
Kathleen Taylor
Scholarship



Leyla Carmen Teresa Olono
Linda Giffin Citron
Scholarship

Tristin Case-Pritchett
Lorenzo Soria Golden Globe
Scholarship



CSUF CTVA Student Films Shine at Newport Beach Film Festival

Film students in the Department of Cinema & Television Arts had a spotlight screening at the 26th Annual Newport Beach Film Festival (NBFF) this October, a tremendous honor and a vivid testament to our program's creative excellence. Five films were screened this year: *No Different*, *Platonic*, *Mirage*, *My Life My Future/Mi Vida Mi Futuro* and *The Unsuspecting Victim*.

For our CSUF CTVA students, participation in NBFF means:

- Their short films were projected on the big screen before audiences of peers, professionals, and film-lovers.
- The students shared space alongside storytellers from around the globe, and enter into the conversation of emerging cinematic voices.
- They gained a significant credential on their creative résumé – an important milestone as they move into their careers or further study.

We extend our heartfelt congratulations to the student filmmakers for their commitment, vision, and hard work. Their discipline, collaboration and artistry have earned them this spotlight. We also want to thank our faculty mentors, production crews, and our broader CSUF community for fostering an environment where such work thrives.

As the films screen at NBFF, we encourage alumni, campus staff, family and friends to join in celebration, whether by attending the screening or by simply sharing the news and cheering on our students. Together, we amplify the impact of this milestone.

Congratulations again to our student filmmakers – the big screen awaits you!



The cast & crew of *My Life My Future/Mi Vida Mi Futuro* at their film premiere at the Newport Beach Film Festival

Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders Scholarships



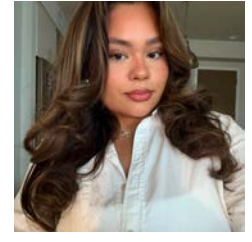
Lationette Vester
California Scottish Rite
Scholarship and
Glyndon D. Riley
Scholarship



Mariel Danganan
California Scottish Rite
Scholarship and
Pay-it-Forward
Scholarship



Samantha Brugman
Glyndon D. Riley
Scholarship



Lorena Horta
Holly Anne Irvine and
Terry Irvine Saenz
Scholarship



Lauren Bagdonoff
Michael R. Farinacci
Family Scholarship

Estella Plancarte
Glyndon D. Riley
Scholarship

Gabriela Murillo
NSSLHA Member
Scholarship

Amanda Jabbour
Jim and Rose Lloyd
Scholarship

Brenda Lopez
STANCE Member
Scholarship

Communication Sciences and Disorders Students Win 2nd Place at Annual College Bowl Competition



Top row (L to R): Diane Collins, HyeKyeung Seung, Linda Pippert, Stefan Henley, Marissa Montanez, Rebeca Rodriguez, Lauren Bagnodoff, Rico Marshello

Bottom row (L to R): Keala Naipo, Valerie Lopez, Jacqueline Dunlap, Stephanie LaCroix, Angela Bragg

On March 14, 2025 a team of second-year graduate students from Cal State Fullerton's Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders won 2nd place at the 2025 California Speech-Language-Hearing Association annual College Bowl competition held in Pasadena.

This event tests students' academic and clinical knowledge in a simulated experience, where they take the Praxis Exam that is required for certification by the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association for state licensure and credential.

Donor support for the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders helps makes student research and conference travel possible.

Department of Communications Scholarships



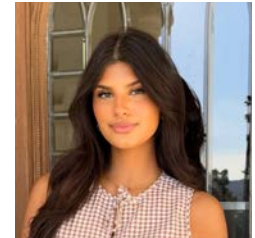
Sathya Chaib
Barbara K. Rickard-Riegle
Broadcast Journalism
Scholarship and James
Alexander Scholarship



Jessica Cargin
Beth Bingham Georges and Bill
Georges Graduate Scholarship



Cassidy Apolo
Echeveste Family
Scholarship



Kaylan Kiyana Silva
Edgar P. Trotter
Scholarship



Jasmine Rodriguez Garcia
Edgar P. Trotter
Scholarship



Lina Naranjo
Gary Granville Memorial
Scholarship



Ruben Montoya
JP Morgan Chase Student
Journalism Award



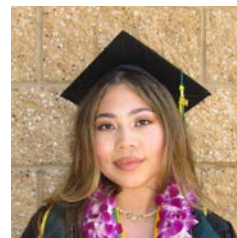
Gabriel Clements
IAAPA Foundation/Themed
Advisors LLC Scholarship



Brianna Jimenez-Apatiga
IAAPA Foundation/Themed
Advisors LLC Scholarship
and Laura Min Brooks Comm
Week Award



Indie Von Martin
Ingrid and Jordan Smart
Scholarship



Mercedes Ayala Avalos
Ingrid and Jordan Smart
Scholarship



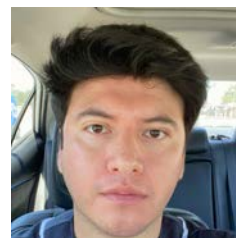
Gerardo Chagolla
Jay Berman Daily Titan
Scholarship



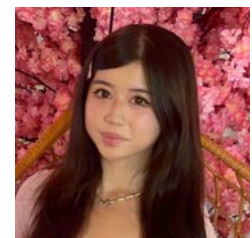
Sergio Gonzalez
Jay Berman Daily Titan
Scholarship and The Society
of Professional Journalists
Scholarship



Justin D. Rosette
John Stewart Memorial
Scholarship



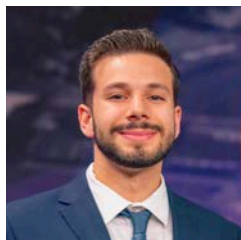
Jovanny Vilchis
John Stewart Memorial
Scholarship



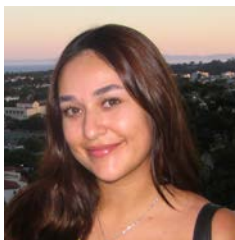
Vivian Tran
Miven Venture Partners
Scholarship

Department of Communications Scholarships

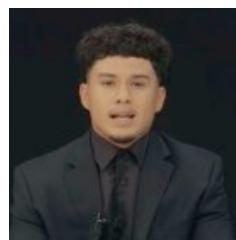
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Jonathan Mansour
Terry Hynes Scholarship



Grace Ureta
Tom Pasqua Memorial
Scholarship



Christian Elias
Vikki Vargas/NBC4 Broadcast
Journalism Scholarship

Colin Costigan
Alfred and Louise Hewitt
Journalism Scholarship

David Martinez
Chris Dufresne Sports
Journalism Scholarship

Mia Mendoza
David Little Scholarship

Emma Gallardo
James Alexander
Scholarship

Vache Sipanian
John Stewart Memorial
Scholarship

Sol Granados
Myles Atlas Memorial
Scholarship

Emily Jessica Chavez
Rayfield Memorial
Scholarship

Paul Lai
Terry Hynes Scholarship

Francisco Perez
VJ Lovero Photo Journalism
Scholarship

Josie Lavalle
COMM Titan Shops/Titan
Bookstore Scholarship

Melina Lovera
COMM Titan Shops/Titan
Bookstore Scholarship



(L to R) JP Morgan Chase Representatives
Rubi Barragan, Lety Sanchez, JP Morgan
Chase Student Journalism Award recipient
Ruben Montoya, and Peter Kelley

Daily Titan and Tusk Magazine Earn Top Honors at National College Media Conferences



Daily Titan and Tusk Magazine students celebrate awards at Spring National Media Convention in New York.

Cal State Fullerton's student-run media outlets Daily Titan and Tusk Magazine received multiple national awards this year, showcasing excellence in journalism, design, advertising and multimedia storytelling across several prestigious college media competitions.

At the Associated Collegiate Press and California College Media Association National College Media Conference held in Long Beach in March, the Daily Titan earned high recognition, including being named a finalist for the ACP Online Pacemaker Award, one of the highest honors in collegiate journalism.

The Daily Titan also excelled in the ACP Best of Show Awards, including:

- First place for Advertising Media Kit
- Fourth place for Newspaper/News magazine
- Fifth place for Broadcast Sports Story: Sergio Gonzalez and Justin Rosette
- Sixth place for Website
- Sixth place for Digital Newsletter
- Eighth place for Advertisement: Kristen Portillo

In the ACP Advertising and Business Awards, the team earned honorable mentions for both their media kit and social media campaign, underscoring the strength of student-led marketing and design work.

The Daily Titan also brought home several CCMA Awards:

- Third place for Best Election Issue
- Third place for Best News Photograph: Bryan Jimenez
- Third place for Best Photo Series: Gerardo Chagolla
- Third place for Best Newspaper Inside Page/Spread Design: Jesse Lopez, Dominic Samaniego, Alexcia Negrete and Gerardo Chagolla

In a separate national competition, Tusk Magazine and the Daily Titan won five additional awards at the ProCon 2025 Spring National College Media Convention, hosted by the College Media Association in February in New York City.

Tusk Magazine received top honors with:

- First place for Best Magazine Cover
- Second place for Best Feature Website

The Daily Titan earned:

- First place for Best Newsletter
- Second place for Best Single-Media Advertisement
- Third place for Best Podcast

Special congratulations also go to Sara Leon, who earned multiple honors from both the Journalism Association of Community Colleges and CCMA for her exceptional work at Fullerton College before transferring to CSUF.

“These awards are especially satisfying because they reflect the outstanding group work and collaboration across our editorial, advertising and multimedia teams,” said Jason Shepard, dean of the College of Communications. “Our students continue to produce meaningful, high-quality journalism and storytelling that serve both the campus and broader community.”

With accolades from coast to coast, CSUF student media continues to lead the way in shaping the future of journalism and communications.

65 Years of Storytelling: Daily Titan Celebrates Milestone at Cal State Fullerton

from [ProCommMagazineSpring2025](#)



More than 100 alumni, students, faculty and supporters gathered in April to celebrate the 65th anniversary of the Daily Titan, Cal State Fullerton’s award-winning student newspaper.

Held on campus at the Golleher Alumni House, the event honored the publication’s legacy of training student journalists and serving as an essential voice for the university community. Guests traveled from across the country to reconnect with former editors, reporters and advisers who have shaped the Daily Titan’s storied history since its founding in 1960.

“This is more than a birthday party,” said Jason Shepard, dean of the College of Communications. “It’s a celebration of truth-seeking, accountability and the vital role student journalism plays in democracy.”

The program featured a walk down memory lane, with photo displays, archived front pages and tributes to former staff members, including the late Jay Berman and the late Wayne Overbeck, who advised the paper for several decades. The evening also recognized current and former advisers Walt Baranger, Tom Clanin, Jeff Brody, Michelle Kurland and Frank Russell for their leadership and mentorship.

From covering campus protests in the 1960s to earning national awards in 2024, the Daily Titan continues to uphold its mission: informing the public and empowering the next generation of journalists.

Department of Human Communication Studies Scholarships



Anirv Ayyala
Dr. John C. Reinard
Forensics Scholarship and
Butterworth Travel Award



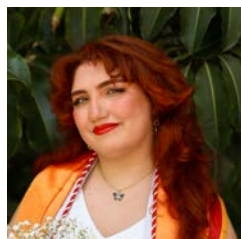
Eve Dowdell
Dr. John C. Reinard
Forensics Scholarship



Natalie Hertogh
Dr. John C. Reinard
Forensics Scholarship and
Butterworth Travel Award



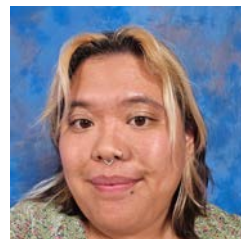
Krizel Guansing
Dr. Lucy M. Keele
Debate Scholarship and Lee
Granell Memorial Scholarship



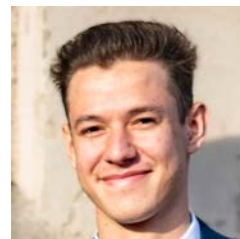
Noushin Taei
Flocken Family Legacy
for Graduate Students



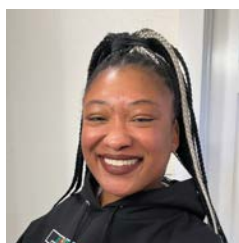
Ashley Youngs
Flocken Family Legacy for
Graduate Students



Alyssa Olaes
Forensics
Scholarship



Jason Parker
Forensics
Scholarship



Kyomi Knight George
HCOM Memorial Scholarship in
Memory of Herbert W. Booth, Seth
Fessenden & Wayne Brockriede



Raven Rayos
Lee Granell Memorial
Scholarship



Erik Sandoval
Positive Change Scholarship

Zachary Parkinson
Doug and Rori Ridley
Scholarship

Andrea Delgado
Dr. John C. Reinard
Forensics Scholarship and
Lee Granell Memorial
Scholarship

Tania Vasquez
Forensics
Scholarship

Samantha Catapang
Jeanine Congalton
Scholarship and
Robert Gass Scholarship

David Hernandez Martinez
Lee Granell Memorial
Scholarship

Vontrez White
Philip J. Schreiner Memorial
Scholarship

Kobe Salazar
HCOM Titan Shops/Titan
Bookstore Scholarship

2024-2025 CSUF FORENSICS HIGHLIGHTS



titanforensics Congrats to our individual events competitors who qualified and competed at AFA Nationals !!
At the most competitive tournament of the year, CSUF had two competitors, Britney & Max, entered across 5 events, picking up some high rankings along the way 🏆

Additionally, Max was named to the American Forensics Association All-American team, a group of 12 seniors who represent the best of intercollegiate forensics. Honorees are selected based on competitive success, academic success, community work, and squad contribution.

Congrats to our individual events squad, and wish them luck as they wrap up the season this weekend at NFA Nationals in Detroit!

#titanUP



2025 FALL UPDATE

The CSUF forensics team has had an active 2025 fall semester. They have competed at four tournaments: The Golden Gate Invitational (hosted by San Francisco State University), The Crossman Invitational Tournament (hosted by El Camino College), Minnesota College Debate Invitational (hosted by University of Minnesota), and Sunset Cliffs (hosted by Point Loma Nazarene University). Some highlights of the results from these activities include Zachary Parkinson's first place in Novice Persuasion and Eve Dowdell's second place in Open Persuasion at the Golden Gate Invitation. Additionally, Jonathan Mesa placed first in varsity Lincoln-Douglas debates at Sunset Cliffs. The team has also hosted their fall virtual tournament for area middle and high school students. In the spring the team is looking forward to another active competition agenda including a March trip to Greece to compete in the International Forensics Association.



titanforensics it's nat quals season !!

Between pre-season and recent qualifier tournaments hosted by CSULB and ASU, team members in both speech AND debate put in that WORK and are headed to nationals

Let's recap who's qualified this season:

- 🔥 David & JMeza qualified to the NDT
- 🔥 Britney qualified to AFA in Program Oral Interp and Impromptu
- 🔥 Max qualified to AFA & NFA in both Poetry and Extemporaneous
- 🔥 Natalie qualified to AFA & NFA in Dramatic Interp
- 🔥 Raven qualified to NFA Novice in After Dinner Speaking & Impromptu

Congrats to our national qualifiers !! We are so proud of the work they put in so far this season, & can't wait to watch them represent at their respective national championships.

Wish them luck !!

#titanUP



titanforensics 🌸🌸🌸🌸

Last weekend two of our individual events team members competed at the Groundhog Day Invitational hosted by Grossman College. With the road to nationals becoming clearer each week, our team has been working hard to qualify all their events!

Natalie- 2nd in Senior Dramatic Interp
Max- 4th in Senior Poetry

That means our team now has 6 NFA qualifications and 3 AFA legs (which will become full qualifications by March bc yk we put in the work)

Next stop, SPRING CHAMPS

#titanUP



Follow CSUF
Forensics on
Instagram
@_titanforensics_



Messages of Gratitude

"As an only child to a single mother, I am thankful for this gift because it will allow me to focus more on my academics. I have been able to focus more attention on my classes, being creative, and involving myself on campus. Because of this scholarship, I have more time to get involved with campus programs such as Titan TV. Your scholarship has helped me tremendously this semester. Thank you."

- Allison Adrid

"My education has always been incredibly valuable to me and scholarships are what allow me to focus on school. I am halfway through my college career and I have achieved so much with the aid of scholarships. It has given me the ability to focus on my research and eventually work towards publication, as well as competing at a high skill level in both speech and debate. Thank you so much!"

- Krizel Guansing



It is truly an honor to be the inaugural recipient of this scholarship. This gift has made a profound impact on my life, and I know it will do the same for future recipients. This scholarship has not only allowed me to become the first in my family to earn a college degree, but also the first to pursue a Master's degree, something I never could have imagined for myself as a young girl growing up in South Africa."

-Jessica Cargin

"I am so honored to have received this scholarship. I am so thankful for this gift because I will be able to move forward with my college career with the weight of debt lifted off of my shoulders. I am a full time student who lives alone and works two jobs so I already have the stress of finances, so this scholarship is greatly appreciated. I am excited to pursue my dreams!"

- Reilly Cleaver

If you have questions about any of the scholarships and programs or wish to learn more about current initiatives in the College of Communications, please contact Courtney Lutkus, Director of Development, at 657-278-4173 or clutkus@fullerton.edu.
Thank you for supporting our students in the College of Communications!