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Eisners Give CSUN Record \$7 Million Gift

Donation to the College of Education Will Bring Cutting-Edge Teacher Preparation Program to Campus

The Eisner Foundation—created by Disney chairman Michael D. Eisner and his wife Jane—has given Cal State Northridge a \$7 million gift to establish a cutting-edge new teacher training program intended to help improve student learning.

The university's new Center for Teaching and Learning within the College of Education will focus on preparing teachers to support the diverse educational and emotional needs of all types of student learners, said Northridge President Jolene Koester in announcing the gift during a campus news conference on Monday, May 20.

The Eisner gift is the largest donation in the university's history. In recognition of that, President Koester said she will ask the California State University system's Board of Trustees, at its mid-July meeting, to rename the college "The Michael D. Eisner College of Education." The college would become the first at CSUN to be named for a donor.

"Cal State Northridge has always been a leader in preparing California's teachers. The Eisner gift recognizes the high quality of our program and provides additional support that allows us to ensure the men and women who pass through our doors have the skills they need so all our children have an opportunity to succeed," the president said.

Michael and Jane Eisner said they made the gift to Cal State Northridge because they share the university's goal to see that teachers and other education professionals are prepared to serve the diverse needs of children and adolescents.

"Every child should be given the



Michael D. Eisner, chairman and CEO of The Walt Disney Co.

opportunity to succeed. Yet in schools across the nation, children with learning differences are often underserved in traditional classroom settings," said Michael Eisner, chairman and CEO of The Walt Disney Co.

"The Eisner Foundation decided to make this gift to CSUN because we know that although teachers understand how important it is to help children learn in their own way, their training does not always give them the tools to address the learning needs of all children," Eisner said.

College of Education Dean Philip Rusche called the university's partnership with the Eisners a natural. "Here we have a family that is intimately involved with a variety of educational activities and a leading college of education leveraging our resources together," Rusche said. "We will make

a difference in education here, throughout the state and even nationally."

Cal State Northridge is the leading producer of teaching credential recipients among public universities in California. Northridge also was one of only four universities nationwide recently tapped by the Carnegie Corporation of New York to take part in a landmark initiative to strengthen K-12 teaching by developing state-of-the-art programs at schools of education.

The Eisner gift, to be paid to CSUN over four years, will fund the creation and operation of the new Center for Teaching and Learning and endow the Eisner Chair in Teaching and Learning. The first Eisner Chair and executive director of the center will be Michael Spagna, a Northridge associate professor of special education.

Spagna said Cal State Northridge will be the first university in the nation to add one particular specialized training component to its teacher preparation programs. The specialized training aims to address the diverse needs of the up to 25 percent of the school-age population that are encountering difficulty in the classroom and considered at-risk.

The new CSUN center will incorporate the teachings and philosophies of noted pediatrician and best-selling author Dr. Mel Levine, who founded All Kinds of Minds, a North Carolina-based nonprofit institute for the study of differences in learning. Levine is a pioneer in the field of learning differences.

The group's program for training teachers is called Schools Attuned, which uses a systematic approach to understanding and managing differ-

ences in student learning. Levine also is a professor of pediatrics and director of the Clinical Center for the Study of Development and Learning at the University of North Carolina School of Medicine-Chapel Hill.

"Dr. Levine's work is revolutionary," said Jane Eisner, president of The Eisner Foundation. "The classroom experience of every student will be enhanced when their teacher is skilled in Dr. Levine's philosophies. We are thrilled to help CSUN reach its goal of ensuring that teachers, counselors, administrators and other professionals are prepared to serve the diverse educational needs of children and adolescents throughout the region."

"Without proper training, teachers are often ill-equipped to handle the special needs of children's differences in learning," said Levine, author of the best-selling book "A Mind at a Time." "This center will raise awareness of the effective techniques and teaching practices that can help kids succeed, both in the classroom and outside of school."

The Eisner Foundation, which awards about \$7 million a year to nonprofit groups in Los Angeles and Orange County, provides financial support to organizations that undertake innovative and concrete programs designed to enhance and enrich the lives of children who are underserved or who have learning differences and their families. Δ

See Related Coverage and Photos on Page 4.



Community Connection

By Judy Nutter, Director of Community Relations

The distinctive new building that houses the CSUN Art Galleries and the Gallery Store is decidedly different from any other on the Cal State Northridge campus. The innovative design, created by Fields Devereaux Architects and Engineers, has been finished in colorful gold, purple and red. You can't and shouldn't miss it.

Because of the 1994 Northridge

earthquake, the Art Galleries and the Gallery Store had been housed in a huge Mylar dome for nearly seven years. But just last year, they happily moved into their beautiful new 3,000-square-foot home on North University Drive (Plummer Street) within the Art and Design Center.

It's a wonderful thing to have an art gallery in your neighborhood.

Community Connection *continued on page 2.*

California State University Northridge

18111 Nordhoff Street, Northridge, California 91330

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Academy High School Approved by L.A. Board of Education

Groundbreaking for Partnership Project with Northridge Could Come This Fall

Highlighting the university's pivotal national role in teacher preparation, the Los Angeles Board of Education has approved plans to develop a model, \$25 million academy high school on the Cal State Northridge campus to educate teenagers interested in teaching careers.

The unanimous school board vote on Tuesday, April 23 capped two years of joint planning between the school district and the university for the currently named Valley New High School No. 1 project. District officials said groundbreaking for the school could occur as early as this fall, with completion due during 2004.

The boutique-sized school will accommodate 800 ninth through twelfth grade students at any one time, meaning 1,200 overall on a year-round calendar. Not only will the high school be located on the university's campus, but the school and its students will have shared access to university labs, athletic fields and library resources.

In return, the university's College of Education and other faculty will assist in operating the new high school, university and high school faculty will collaborate on instructional issues, and Cal State Northridge students studying to become teachers will be able to do their observing and student teaching at the 115,000-square-foot school.

"This is probably going to be one of the most dynamic, most exciting projects L.A. Unified—certainly in partnership with CSUN—will ever see," said school board member Julie Korenstein. "This will become a nationally renowned high school.



Architect's rendering of the Academy High School project, looking toward Zelzah Ave.

This is a very, very exciting time for all of us."

Northridge President Jolene Koester added, "For all these reasons, the Academy High School project at Cal State Northridge is good for the school district, good for the university, good for students, and ultimately, very, very good for our community. We have a very special opportunity here to create an exceptional, high-quality public high school."

The high school will be the first in the Los Angeles school district to be located on a university campus. The project will be the first new high school the Los Angeles district has built in the San Fernando Valley in more than 30 years. Both LAUSD and CSUN officials hope the school's locale will help encourage its students to pursue higher education.

President Koester called the joint project a natural one for the university,

particularly given that Northridge is the state's leading public university in preparing students who receive California teaching credentials. Just recently, the Carnegie Corp. invited Northridge and three other universities in the nation to help develop national models for effective teacher preparation programs.

L.A. Unified is planning to build its teacher training academy on the university's 5.3-acre Zelzah Court site located on the west side of Zelzah Avenue, just south of the University Park Apartments. In exchange, the university will receive the district's nearby eight-acre former Prairie Street school site, which will be used to increase university parking.

The high school will consist of several multi-story buildings, the main one four stories in height, including 38 classrooms, a library, an auditorium, a gymnasium, a cafeteria and food service area, and 228 spaces of under-

ground parking for faculty, staff and students. The high school is expected to operate on a year-round calendar.

Generally, LAUSD officials said the high school will be self-supporting in terms of its own facilities, with the shared use of university facilities mainly meant to augment and enhance the school's opportunities for students. The extent of facilities to be shared by the university is detailed in a shared use agreement between the school district and the university.

The school board's vote certified the project's environmental impact report and made other findings that will enable the school district to proceed to award a construction contract. The school district is funding the construction of the high school from state and local school construction funds; no university funds are involved in developing the project.

As planned, the future high school will draw its students from the attendance zones of three LAUSD high schools surrounding the university: Monroe to the east, Granada Hills to the north and Cleveland to the south. Unlike a traditional LAUSD high school, students who want to attend the academy high school will have to apply, based on their potential and interest.

Another attractive feature of the high school will be its modest size, with an enrollment that will be about one-fourth that of a traditional LAUSD high school. In recent months, a series of reports, including one funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, has pointed to the educational advantages for students who attended smaller schools. ■

Community Connection *continued from page 1.*

For those of you who haven't visited the new galleries, I encourage you to take advantage of the opportunity to view the various exhibits and learn about the various artists and their works. The galleries and store are open Monday through Saturday between noon and 4 p.m. during the academic year (September through May).

There will be eight exhibitions in the Art Galleries during the 2002-2003 academic year, each on display for about one month. A reception is held in the galleries and courtyard area for the opening of each exhibition, sponsored by the Arts Council for CSUN. If you would like to receive information on these events, you can contact Michelle Giacopuzzi, the galleries' exhibition coordinator, at 677-2156.

The Annual Juried Art Student Show—on display through Friday, May 31, 2002—is a popular exhibition that features works by current CSUN graduate and undergraduate art students. This show has been presented every year since the university's founding, including the 1994 show when the exhibition was hung on portable

fences because the (later demolished) Fine Arts Building had been closed by the earthquake.

The Arts Council for CSUN, established in 1971, is the organization of volunteers that was created to assist the departments of art, music and theatre in providing support for the Art Galleries exhibition program, as well as concerts, recitals and theater productions.

The Arts Council provides yearly scholarships to students in those three departments. The council also operates the Gallery Store.

Members of the Arts Council provide Art Galleries tours and are the folks who would assist you in the galleries gift shop. This shop offers a wonderful collection of international items at very reasonable prices. The inventory frequently changes, but there is always a beautiful selection of jewelry, unique toys, books for children and adults, pretty and unusual vases and bowls, picture frames and lovely note cards. I frequently find items in the shop that "I just can't live without".

Of course, the Arts Council provides other services as well. Their members

usher at music and theater events, provide receptions for special events, and staff the Music Shoppe in room 151 of the Music Building on Nordhoff Street, just west of East University Drive (Lindley Avenue). Music scores, books, records and tapes are donated to the shop and sold at very nominal fees to students, faculty and community members. All proceeds go to the Music Department and the music students in the form of awards and scholarships. The Music Shoppe is open Wednesdays and Thursdays between 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. during the academic year.

Each semester, the Music Shoppe holds a courtyard sale to benefit the music students. The sale is held on a Wednesday and Thursday between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m.; specific dates to be announced. At this fun and interesting event, the shop moves outside to accommodate browsers and buyers.

I just returned from a visit to the shop, where I found a variety of interesting old to recently-new sheet music, recordings and books. The Arts Council representative managing

the shop that day was Eleanor Baxter. She is a charming and very knowledgeable person who would be happy to provide more information on how to donate to the Music Shoppe or answer questions you may have on what is available for purchase. Ms. Baxter can be reached at 343-6417.

If you would like to learn more about the Arts Council and perhaps become a member, please give Michelle Giacopuzzi a call in the Galleries Office. Membership gives you access to special, members-only events; reduced admission to CSUN performances, workshops, lectures and concerts; discounts in the Art Galleries gift shop; a subscription to the Arts Council newsletter, and an opportunity to meet some very interesting people.

Well, here we are at the end of another academic year, ready to step into summer. Community @CSUN won't be published again until the fall. So I'll say goodbye until then, and wish all of you a very happy summer. ■

New Dean Appointed for College of Business & Economics

Michael Fronmueller Served as Business Dean at University of Louisiana-Lafayette

Michael Fronmueller, a veteran business educator with more than 20 years experience and research interests in strategic management and international business, has been named the new dean of the College of Business and Economics at Cal State Northridge effective July 1. He succeeds Dean William Hosek, who is retiring.

Fronmueller, who is fluent in German and can read French, comes to the university after having served since 1999 as dean of the College of Business Administration at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette. While there, he helped develop a new business systems and technology major that was selected as a showcase program and was very active in fundraising.

"There is a lot of excitement on campus and in the community, and I am looking forward to being a part of that," said Fronmueller of his move to Northridge. "In the San Fernando Valley as a whole, this is a very exciting time. There are a lot of things happening and the businesses in the area

are really making it one of the best places in the world to be."

The business college is the largest of nine colleges at the university with about 6,200 students. It includes the departments of accounting and information systems; business law; economics; finance, real estate and insurance; management; marketing, and systems and operations management. The college also hosts more than a half dozen centers, including one on the San Fernando Valley economy.

"Dr. Fronmueller's extensive research interests in such subjects as strategic management, marketing and international business, as well as his experience as a teacher and administrator, make him a wonderful choice as dean of our College of Business and Economics," said Provost Louanne Kennedy in announcing the appointment.

Fronmueller was a management faculty member at Boise State University from 1990 to 1999, including the last three years as department chair. He also taught at Washington State University at Pullman and Eastern



Dean Michael Fronmueller

Washington University. He received his undergraduate degree in Germany, his M.B.A. at Eastern Washington and his doctorate from Washington State.

Fronmueller said one of the first things he plans to do after arriving on the Northridge campus is listen. "I plan to do a lot of listening, to

people both on and off campus, to learn about the community and the campus," he said.

"I am very supportive of the notion that we have to have partnerships with the community and that we need to work with the community. I want to know what their needs are," Fronmueller said.

While at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette, Fronmueller launched projects to develop an executive MBA program with a focus on the healthcare industry and a consortium-based online M.B.A. program in collaboration with other campuses in the University of Louisiana system.

He also helped raise \$3.4 million to fund 14 professorships and two endowed chairs in entrepreneurship and e-business. While at Boise State, Fronmueller served as chair of the Management Department, which was the first at the university to offer courses via the Internet.

Fronmueller is married and has a two-and-a-half-year-old daughter. ■

New Dean Named for Engineering & Computer Science

S.T. Mau Comes to Northridge as ASCE Fellow, Professional Engineer and Widely Published Academic

Sheng-Taur Mau, a fellow of the American Society of Civil Engineers and a widely published academic with more than 30 years experience, has been named the new dean of the College of Engineering and Computer Science at Cal State Northridge effective July 1.

Mau, who since 1998 has been dean of the Newark College of Engineering at the New Jersey Institute of Technology, was selected by the university after a nationwide search. The licensed professional engineer has published more than 70 scholarly articles and refereed proceedings.

Mau's research interests include structural mechanics, structural engineering and—in a particularly relevant field for CSUN—earthquake engineering. From 1986 to 1988, he served on a National Research Council panel that recommended improvements in earthquake engineering for concrete dams. In recent years, he has done earthquake engineering research regarding the city of Los Angeles' electrical power system.

"Dr. Mau has extensive experience as a researcher, a teacher and an administrator," said Northridge Provost Louanne Kennedy in announcing the appointment. "We are fortunate to have someone with such accomplishments assume the role of dean of the College of Engineering and Computer Science."

Mau succeeds Laurence Caretto, who stepped down as dean last year to return to the classroom. Diane Schwartz, the former chair of the



Dean Sheng-Taur Mau

Computer Science Department, has served as interim dean during the search.

The university's College of Engineering and Computer Science has more than 2,200 students and includes the departments of civil engineering and applied mechanics, computer science, electrical and computer engineering, manufacturing systems engineering and management, and mechanical engineering.

Mau, who goes by the first name of S.T., was born in China and raised in Taiwan. He said he is very excited about coming to Northridge.

"There is so much opportunity and so much potential at the college," he said. "This is a good opportunity to

serve the needs of the region, especially technology-related businesses. I really hope that we can work closely with the industry in the region and find out what we can do better to fulfill their needs and develop new career opportunities for our students."

Mau said his first priority at Northridge will be strengthening his college's ties with the business and technology industries. "After all, we are serving their needs. We need their input and help in making sure that we do that. That's my external priority," he said. "Internally, I want to make sure we graduate more qualified students in a timely manner."

Mau said he is particularly looking forward to working with the college's faculty. "I really hope we can work together as a team," he said. "As a dean, I'm just one person. I'm not going to make any difference if I don't have the faculty and staff working together with me as we move forward. I've always been lucky getting help from my colleagues, and I expect I'll have the same kind of luck at CSUN," he added.

Since 1998, Mau has been dean of the Newark College of Engineering at the New Jersey Institute of Technology. NJIT is a public research university with about 8,200 students in various undergraduate, graduate and doctoral programs.

At NJIT, Mau introduced a faculty-based recruiting effort to raise the visibility of the college's programs that led to a 20 percent increase in

master's program enrollments and a 15 percent increase in undergraduate applications. He also oversaw the creation of a new biomedical engineering department.

Before joining NJIT, Mau was a faculty member at the University of Houston's main campus from 1984 to 1998, including a 1993–1996 stint as chair of its Civil and Environmental Engineering Department. There he also served as founding director of the Public Works Institute in the university's Cullen College of Engineering.

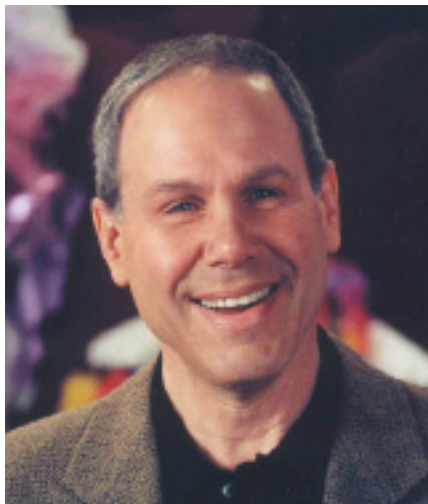
Between 1973 and 1984, Mau served as a Civil Engineering Department faculty member at National Taiwan University, including from 1973 to 1979 as department chair. From 1971 to 1973, he worked at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology as a senior research engineer in its Department of Aeronautics and Astronautics.

Mau earned his doctorate in structural engineering from Cornell University in 1971, and his master's in structural engineering (1967) and bachelor's in civil engineering (1965) from National Taiwan University.

Mau has been a project director for an interdisciplinary research project on civil infrastructure systems funded by the National Science Foundation, and an associate editor from 1990 to 1992 of the *Journal of Engineering Mechanics*. He also co-authored the 1995 book "Elementary Theory of Structures."

Mau is married and has two grown sons. ■

Helping Diverse Student Learners Through Teaching Innovation



Michael D. Eisner
*Chairman and CEO,
The Walt Disney Co.*

"All children are capable of achieving their dreams. That, simply, is the idea behind The Eisner Foundation. We are committed, as a family and as a foundation, to supporting organizations in Southern California that improve and enrich the lives of underserved children.

"A child's success and happiness only comes when he or she is provided with the right tools, opportunities, and role models. That's why, working in collaboration with local organizations, our family foundation seeks to help children and families in many different ways.

"We fund programs that infuse education, art and athletics into children's lives; that educate teachers about differences in learning; that support parents' and their children; that improve the quality and accessibility of pediatric care; and that strengthen local resources across the board for families-in-need.

"By reaching out to underserved communities in Los Angeles and Orange Counties, we try to ensure that all children in these areas are given the support and the chance to set goals and to achieve their dreams."

Michael Spagna
*Executive Director,
CSUN Center for Teaching
and Learning*

"We are very excited to receive this \$7 million gift from The Eisner Foundation to put us at the cutting edge of teacher preparation. In particular, this will allow us to better train elementary and secondary education teachers to identify learning needs and directly impact student achievement.

"We will be the first university in the country to take the work of noted pediatrician and best-selling author Dr. Mel Levine and his organization, All Kinds of Minds, and implement it in our teacher training programs.

"Dr. Levine's education program, Schools Attuned, is really designed to address the needs of the up to 25 percent of the school-age population that are encountering difficulty in the classroom.



Jolene Koester
CSUN President

"This \$7 million gift from The Eisner Foundation, the university's largest ever gift, is wonderful confirmation that Cal State Northridge has one of the nation's leading colleges of education.

"We are extremely honored to be recognized in this way by the Eisners. Their investment in Cal State Northridge will benefit all of California and it will make Cal State Northridge even more indispensable to this region.

"This gift also marks what you might call the triple crown of honors for Cal State Northridge's teacher preparation program. First, the university and our College of Education already prepare more teaching credential recipients on an annual basis than any other public university in the state.

"Second, the prestigious Carnegie Corporation recently identified this university as one of the leading universities in the country in the preparation of teachers. And now, Michael and Jane Eisner have honored us with this outstanding gift to help Cal State Northridge do an even better job of preparing teachers in the future."

The Schools Attuned Concept

Schools Attuned is a comprehensive professional development and service program that offers educators new methods for recognizing, understanding, and managing students with differences in learning.

Schools Attuned gives classroom teachers and other school personnel the knowledge and skills, as well as a system of innovative tools, to meet the diverse needs of all students. When implemented within schools,

"Cal State Northridge and our College of Education are in a unique position to implement this program. We produce the most teacher credential recipients of any public university in the state of California.

"We have the resources to research and study this program as it would impact teachers and student achievement. And finally, we have developed several innovative programs that will be able to develop and implement this instruction."



Philip Rusche
Dean, College of Education

"We're delighted with the gift from the Eisner family. It's a significant recognition of the college and its achievements, and certainly it lays out a direction for the college's future, now and in perpetuity.

"It's a natural partnership we'll have with the Eisners. Here we have a family that is intimately involved with a variety of educational activities and a leading college of education leveraging our resources together. We will make a difference in education here, and throughout the state and even nationally.

"It's a good opportunity for the faculty. We have a very fine faculty. This will enable them to stay on the cutting edge of educational reform, and to advance educational thought in a variety of ways.

"Also, I think it will aid the community, since we'll be one of the early adopters of the work of Dr. Mel Levine, and share that with local schools, local agencies and with the clientele they serve. It should be a win-win situation for everyone."

the program enriches the ways in which all children are educated.

Schools Attuned provides focused study of eight neurodevelopmental constructs that affect learning: attention, language, memory, neuromotor function, spatial ordering, temporal-sequential ordering, higher order cognition, and social cognition. The program enables educators to understand the role of these constructs in building—or, for many children—undermining the foundation for learning. ■



Dr. Mel Levine
*Founder and Co-Chairman of
All Kinds of Minds*

"Most children begin their educational careers as enthusiastic learners and energetic thinkers. But before long, many of them begin to fall behind in traditional school programs because of the way their brains are 'wired.'

"Children who are struggling present a range of issues from severe breakdowns in learning to the frustrations of those whose efforts in school far exceed their achievements. Some have brains that are wired to handle a lot of information at once. Others can only absorb and process a little information at a time. Still others must look at information many times before grasping it. Fortunately, all kids' minds have the potential for great growth.

"Too many kids struggle needlessly simply because the way in which they learn is incompatible with the way they're being taught. Schools are filled with kids who have given up on themselves and conclude that they are 'stupid.' It's tragic. It's also painful—painful for the student, teacher, and parent....

"In general, kids have very little tolerance for humiliation or failure. One of a student's most important goals is to make it through the day without embarrassment. Imagine then, the frustration of children with differences in learning, who are at risk of growing up deprived of experiencing success.

Success is a vitamin that every kid must take in order to thrive during his or her school years. We, as teachers and parents, must make sure that this critical learning 'supplement' is available to all students." ■



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Managing Editor, Office of Public Relations,
18111 Nordhoff St., Northridge, CA 91330-8242.

voice (818) 677-2130
fax (818) 677-4909
e-mail pubinfo@csun.edu



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