Bucking the trend of tough times for fundraising, Cal State Northridge has a new campus record of $18.8 million in private support collected during the 2002/03 year. The university’s fundraising tally during the most recent year more than triples its private support of five years ago, when Northridge received $5 million during 1998/99. Northridge has now achieved five consecutive years of increases in its annual fundraising results.

For a second straight year, Cal State Northridge’s student enrollment has reached record levels, now ranking the university as the third largest in the 23-campus California State University system. Northridge’s enrollment for fall 2003 grew to 32,997 students, the most in the university’s 46-year history. Northridge gained 927 students last fall over its prior record of 32,070 students in fall 2002.

Cal State Northridge Chicano/a studies professor Juana Mora is teaming up with a researcher from a Los Angeles-based management group to assess the health and school readiness of children from birth to age five in Los Angeles County. The two have received a $250,000 two-year grant from the First 5 LA Commission for five projects to train and assist community-based organizations in collecting data on children in the county.

Cal State Northridge alumnus Leopold Lowe recently won the prestigious AUDELCO award for best actor for his performance in “Ma Rainey’s Black Bottom” with the Classical Theater of Harlem. Denzel Washington and Samuel L. Jackson have previously won the award.