For the second consecutive year, Cal State Northridge has ranked fifth among U.S. universities in awarding bachelor’s degrees to Hispanic students, according to the May 7 issue of The Hispanic Outlook in Higher Education. Northridge also ranked highest among all California schools, awarding a total of 1,360 bachelor’s degrees to Hispanic students during 2005–06.

The College of Health and Human Development, in partnership with several local hospitals, has won initial approval from the state to begin this summer offering an accelerated bachelor’s degree in nursing. The program, which compresses 56 units of classes and clinical work into 15 months of study, targets those who want to pursue a nursing career and already have a non-nursing bachelor’s degree.

Seeking to prepare students for ever-advancing globalization, Cal State Northridge this year has launched a new bachelor’s degree program in languages and cultures. The new major is being offered through the Department of Modern and Classical Languages and Literatures, where students can focus their studies on languages that include Armenian, French, German, Italian and Japanese.

Vance T. Peterson, a veteran administrator with more than 30 years experience in fundraising and communications, has been named Cal State Northridge’s new vice president for university advancement. Peterson previously served as president of the Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE), the leading international association for advancement professionals in education.