Northridge Among Nation’s Top Institutions for Minorities

National Magazines Give CSUN High Marks in Serving Students of Color

Cal State Northridge is 11th in the nation among institutions awarding bachelor’s degrees to minority students in 2002–03, according to the June 3 issue of “Higher Education” magazine, which rated colleges and universities on how well they serve students of color.

Northridge President Jolene Koester said university officials were honored to be recognized for their efforts in serving all of CSUN’s students.

“Cal State Northridge is located in a vibrant and diverse community, and we are proud to be able to provide a quality education to all who are in it,” Koester said.

In May, “Hispanic Outlook in Higher Education” ranked Northridge eighth in a national list of colleges and universities that conferred the most bachelor’s degrees upon Hispanics. In determining a university’s standing, both magazines use information supplied by the U.S. Department of Education’s National Center for Education Statistics.

According to the rankings in “Black Issues,” Northridge was seventh in the nation in bachelor’s degrees awarded to Hispanics across all disciplines, 25th in bachelor’s degrees awarded to Asian Americans and 53rd in bachelor’s degrees awarded to American Indians.

Cal State Northridge ranked second in the nation in bachelor’s degrees awarded Hispanics in social sciences; fifth in degrees to Asian Americans in education; fifth in bachelor’s degrees awarded Hispanics in psychology; sixth in degrees awarded to Hispanics in area, ethnic, culture and gender studies; eighth in degrees to Hispanics in business, management, marketing and related support services; ninth in degrees to Hispanics in English, language and literature/letters; 12th in degrees to Hispanics in education; 13th in degrees to Hispanics in mathematics and statistics; and 16th in degrees to African Americans in area, ethnic, culture and gender studies.

Keck Foundation Funds New Northridge Teachers Project

Teachers-in-Residence Program Joins Teachers for New Era Initiative on Campus

The W. M. Keck Foundation has awarded Cal State Northridge $300,000 for an innovative new program that brings K–12 master teachers into the university’s arts and sciences classrooms as teachers-in-residence, actively participating in the preparation of future educators.

Believed to be the first university-wide program of its kind in the United States, the two-year W. M. Keck Teachers-in-Residence Project’s overall goals are to bridge the gap between theory and practice in teacher education programs, and to strengthen active collaborations between K–12 teachers and university arts and sciences faculty.

The teachers-in-residence project will become part of the campus’ work on Teachers for a New Era (TNE), a landmark initiative designed to strengthen K–12 teaching by developing state-of-the-art programs at schools of education. Cal State Northridge was one of only four universities nationwide tapped by the Carnegie Corporation of New York to launch the initiative. Eleven institutions now are involved in the TNE consortium.

Philip Rusche, dean of the Michael D. Eisner College of Education, said the Keck gift keeps Cal State Northridge at the forefront of innovation in teacher education and reinforces teacher preparation as a university-wide responsibility at CSUN.

“More importantly,” Rusche said, “the gift enhances both the university and local schools by having school faculty share their knowledge with our faculty, and take what they have learned back to their home schools.”

The teachers-in-residence will have an opportunity to teach, research, supervise student teachers and engage in ongoing discussions with the university’s faculty about the realities of teaching in today’s urban classroom. They will have the flexibility to explore further opportunities on campus, from reviewing and informing the content of exit exams to team teaching and admissions.

As the project develops, Cal State Northridge officials plan to share what they learn with the more than 1,200 teacher preparation colleges and universities across the country.

The W. M. Keck Foundation is one of the nation’s largest philanthropic organizations. Established in 1954 by the late W. M. Keck, founder of The Superior Oil Company, the foundation’s grant making is focused primarily on pioneering efforts in the areas of medical research, science, and engineering.

Parking and transportation are major issues for most university campuses and Cal State Northridge is no exception. The following information is good news describing two solutions to parking and transportation problems on the CSUN campus.

Many of you have seen the large construction project underway at West University Drive (Etiwanda) and Prairie Street. This $179.3 million project is the university’s second new parking structure and will be known as Parking Structure B3. It is scheduled to open in August 2005 with 2,963 spaces, providing a major gain of nearly 1,350 campus parking spaces, compared to the original surface lot. This new addition will bring the total number of parking spaces on campus to 12,250.

The other solution is the introduction of two 35-passenger trams that should begin serving students, faculty and staff by October 1. These new open air trams will replace the old bus shuttle system. The trams are quieter and more environmentally friendly than the buses, and won’t add to the traffic on the campus perimeter streets.

The new trams are accessible to disabled passengers and feature roll down curtains for inclement weather and monitors that display campus information.

The Matador Tram service will make four stops on a route that averages 15 to 20 minutes of travel time per round trip, providing shorter wait times and more trips per hour than the old bus shuttle system. The route will start on Lindley Avenue between Kinzie and Lassen Streets adjacent to the University Park Apartments, skirt Parking Lot F9.
University Launches ‘Envision 2035’ Planning Process
Campus/Community Open Forums Help Envision Future of the University

Cal State Northridge campus and community members participated in the first two open forums in mid-September to publicly launch Envision 2035, the university planning initiative that will help shape the future of the campus for the next several decades.

During the coming year, the university and its broader community will be working collaboratively to envision the future of the campus spanning up to 50 years, hence Envision 2035. The result will be an updated campus master plan that will guide the future layout and design of the campus.

The goal is to prepare Cal State Northridge to meet the changing and growing higher education needs of this region. That means envisioning a Cal State Northridge campus that can offer the educational programs of the future, serve students of the future, and meet the community’s future needs.

During the forums on Monday, September 13, university and community members had a hands-on opportunity through small discussion groups to discuss and explore future ideas and challenges for the 353-acre campus. The university hosted one forum in the morning and another in the evening to provide the greatest opportunities for participation.

The campus and community feedback will help the university’s planning consultants develop an updated draft campus master plan that is slated to be presented later in the fall semester, likely in November. At that time, the university and its planning consultants will hold another pair of open forums to share the initial results of the consultants’ work.

After a nationwide search, the university selected the prominent award-winning consulting firm of AC Martin Partners, Inc. in Los Angeles to help guide the Envision 2035 campus planning process. AC Martin Partners, which has been in business for nearly 100 years, has developed campus plans for other Cal State universities and private universities.

A campus plan looks at many future aspects of the CSUN campus, including student enrollment, the needs for academic and other facilities, the layout of the campus, the future use of North Campus property north of Lassen Street, and support elements such as employee and student housing, parking, athletic facilities and food services, and other elements.

After a comprehensive environmental review process during spring 2005 that will include additional public hearings, the final campus plan and an accompanying Environmental Impact Report (EIR) will be submitted to the California State University’s Board of Trustees for final approval.

The last time the CSU Board of Trustees approved an updated CSUN campus master plan was in 1998. Typically, such plans are reviewed and updated periodically as campus conditions and needs change. Each update adds some new elements and deletes others that have become obsolete with time.

For example, the university’s current plan still includes an item adopted more than 30 years ago that states the campus could serve up to 25,000 full-time equivalent students (FTES). With the university’s current enrollment already nearing that level, the updated plan will look at how CSUN can serve the region’s student enrollment demands during the coming decades.

As part of its studies, AC Martin will look at whether the campus could accommodate a larger student enrollment capacity, including what facilities and support services would be needed to serve a student population that might reach 35,000 FTES in future decades.

Of Presidents and Politics: Panel Zeroes in on Election
CSUN Professors to Probe Global, National, Local Aspects of November Contest

Four of Cal State Northridge’s most distinguished authorities on politics and national issues will take on the country’s hottest topic—the upcoming presidential election—in a wide-ranging, spirited on-campus discussion set for Thursday, Oct. 14.

Free and open to the public, the 7 p.m. roundtable in the Grand Salon of the University Student Union will be preceded by a 6:30 p.m. reception.

Political science professors Larry Becker, James Mitchell, Tom Hogen-Esch and Sylvia Snowiss will address as many aspects of the election that time will allow, from the election’s impact on the economy to its meaning in a global context.

“Given the far-reaching consequences that the election will have on important aspects of the American body politic—across the spectrum of U.S. foreign policy to our own state and local affairs—we decided to call on the expertise of our professors to discuss how each would be affected,” said panel moderator Mehran Kamrava, chair of the CSUN Political Science Department. “Our faculty are among the best in the nation, and I for one am eagerly looking forward to hearing their views.”

The author of “Doing the Right Thing: Collective Action and Procedural Choice in the New Legislative Process,” panelist Larry Becker is an expert on presidential politics and fiscal policy. His teaching interests include American government, American political institutions, public policy and public administration.

Tom Hogen-Esch, former staff member with the Los Angeles Elected Charter Reform Commission, contributes frequently to the Los Angeles Times’ opinion section. Considered an expert on Los Angeles politics, he teaches U.S. and California government, public policy and administration, race and ethnic politics, and urban politics.

James Mitchell is the author of “American Government and Politics in Focus.” He has done extensive research in United States foreign policy, Eastern and Central European relations, as well as international political economy, relations theory and organization.

Sylvia Snowiss, a CSUN political science professor emerita, is a nationally recognized authority on the U.S. Constitution, the U.S. Supreme Court and American political thought. She is the author of numerous books and articles on Constitutional theory.

Parking for the event is $4, available in Lot G1 at Zelzah Avenue and Plummer Street. For more information, call the Political Science Department at (818) 677-5488.

Community Connection…

Continued from page 1

and loop around the track field before heading south to its turnaround north of the University Student Union.

The two new trams will service the campus Mondays through Thursdays from 7 a.m. to 7:30 p.m., and Fridays from 7 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Cal State Northridge is making significant progress with the challenge of providing the appropriate number of parking spaces for the campus population, as well as efficient and environmentally sound alternate campus transportation.

Next month, I’ll tell you about a new community outreach project and update you on the outcome of the first public forums on Envision 2035. Until next month.

What do you think of the Cal State Northridge Web site?

The university is currently gathering information to make our Web site more effective for all of our users, but we need your help. We are very interested in your opinion. Please take a few minutes and fill out our online Web site user survey at www.csun.edu/webusersurvey. Thanks in advance for your participation.
New LAUSD High School Opens on Northridge Campus

The first new Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) high school in more than 30 years opened its doors last week on the campus of Cal State Northridge, launching an educational partnership that aims to improve the education of high school students.

At a September 9 news conference with LAUSD Superintendent of Schools Roy Romer, President Jolene Koester welcomed the students and staff of Valley New High School No. 1—the facility's temporary name—to the Northridge campus.

"This high school will be a true model educational partnership," said Koester. "What better location than Cal State Northridge, where the university has a nationally renowned teacher preparation program that also is one of the largest such programs in California?"

Among those joining Koester and Romer at the news conference—marking the first of eight district-wide openings of new LAUSD schools that day—were Philip Rusche, dean of the Michael D. Eisner College of Education at Northridge; Valley New High School No. 1 principal Connie Semf, LAUSD Board President José Huizar; LAUSD board members Julie Korenstein and Jon Lauritzen, both CSUN alumni; LAUSD Local District 1 Superintendent Bob Collins, and United Teachers of Los Angeles President John Perez, also a CSUN alum.

"The transformation of the L.A. school district is well underway," said Romer of the high school opening, the first in the district since the 1971 opening of John F. Kennedy High School in Granada Hills, another Valley location.

With the opening at CSUN, officials also began a long-planned, innovative district/university partnership on curriculum, professional development, and other educational ventures. Cal State Northridge will work with the new high school to enhance the achievement of students and create an outstanding model for university/high school collaboration, said Bonnie Ericson, Northridge secondary education chair and campus liaison to the new school. "The high school students will be better prepared for college, and our own students will be better prepared to become teachers." CSUN teacher credential students will do their student teaching at the high school, and high school students will share supervised access to university faculty and resources.

A 9 a.m. ribbon-cutting ceremony on Wednesday, Oct. 27, will mark the official opening of the new $36 million high school, located on a 5 1/2-acre parcel at Zelzah Avenue and Halsted Street, on CSUN's eastern border. The school's gymnasium and fourth floor are undergoing final completion work in the meantime. The facility also has 38 classrooms, a library, an auditorium and physical education areas.

Built to reduce overcrowding in the attendance areas of Monroe, Granada Hills Charter and Cleveland High Schools, the 115,000 square foot high school has an enrollment of about 600 students in its first year. Ultimately, it will grow to 1,000 students from grades 9–12. All students are from nearby neighborhoods; the LAUSD busing program will serve the new school.

After exposure to all three of the school's "academies"—Careers in Education, Health and Human Development, Arts, Media and Communication—each student will select one for future coursework emphasis. For school information, call (818) 700-2222.

University's Engineering Program Among Nation's Top 50

College of Engineering and Computer Science Lands on "Best Colleges" List for Second Straight Year

Cal State Northridge's College of Engineering and Computer Science is ranked among the nation's top five undergraduate engineering schools by U.S. News & World Report magazine.

The honor marks the second straight year the university's engineering college has earned its place among the nation's 50 best undergraduate programs in engineering.

Northridge Student Named Hearst Award Winner

Becky Berger is One of Only 14 CSU Students to Earn Special Trustees Honor

Orphaned at the age of six months, Berger spent a difficult childhood in nurseries and orphanages abroad. Homeless after running away from an orphanage, the honoree recalls, she managed to survive by developing "defense mechanisms" that helped her overcome calamities such as the death of her first husband.

Raising two children of her own and having earned a degree in child development and psychology, Berger now does their teaching at the high school, and high school students will share supervised access to university faculty and resources. A 9 a.m. ribbon-cutting ceremony on Wednesday, Oct. 27, will mark the official opening of the new $36 million high school, located on a 5 1/2-acre parcel at Zelzah Avenue and Halsted Street, on CSUN's eastern border. The school's gymnasium and fourth floor are undergoing final completion work in the meantime. The facility also has 38 classrooms, a library, an auditorium and physical education areas.

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The college, ranked 39th, tied with seven out-of-state institutions in the magazine's survey of public and private engineering schools whose terminal degree is the bachelor's or master's. Last year's survey ranked the college in 60th place.

At nearly 2,300 students and about 120 full and part-time faculty, CSUN's College of Engineering and Computer Science is home to several nationally recognized programs where students gain valuable hands-on experience working on cutting-edge research alongside faculty members and industry professionals.

The college offers the greater Los Angeles metropolitan area's only program training future manufacturing systems engineers to play key roles in the creation of products ranging from toys to space shuttles.

Cal State Northridge graduate Becky Berger is one of fourteen California State University students who received the prestigious William Randolph Hearst/CSU Trustees Award scholarship at the CSU Board of Trustees meeting in July.

Berger, who learned English only six years ago, is pursuing further to the Dean’s List and the President’s International Honor Society. Named to the Dean’s List and the President’s Honor Award List at Northridge, she also received the President’s Distinguished Honor Award.

For school information, call (818) 700-2222.

Berger is now a junior at Cal State Northridge, majoring in child development and psychology. After finishing her coursework in Jewish Studies after earning bachelor’s degrees in both child development and psychology, she plans to pursue a master’s degree in Jewish Studies.

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October Calendar

Art and Exhibits

Admission is free unless specified. For more info, call (818) 677-2156. Main gallery hours: Mon. through Sat. 12–4 p.m.

Association International Graphics Arts
Organized by Cal State Northridge, exhibition will feature works by graphic artists from Cal Arts, Art Center, Ots Art Institute, Woodbury, UCLA and CSULB.
Fri., Oct. 8 through Sat. Nov. 13. Reception: Sat., Oct. 9, 7–9 p.m. Gallery talk: Mon., Oct. 11, 10 a.m.

Athletics (home games)

Men's Soccer
9/24 UNLV 4 p.m.
10/03 Santa Clara 7 p.m.
10/06 Cal Poly 3 p.m.
10/16 UC Santa Barbara 3 p.m.
10/27 Irvine 3:20 p.m.

Women's Soccer
9/24 San Diego State 1 p.m.
10/01 Utah State 12:30 p.m.
10/03 Idaho 12:30 p.m.
10/15 UC Riverside 2:30 p.m.
10/17 Cal State Fullerton 2:30 p.m.
10/29 Pacific 2:30 p.m.

Women's Volleyball
8/23 Irvine 7 p.m.
9/25 Long Beach State 7 p.m.
10/05 Fresno State 7 p.m.
10/07 UC Riverside 7 p.m.
10/09 Cal State Fullerton 7 p.m.
10/28 UC Santa Barbara 7 p.m.
10/30 Cal Poly 7 p.m.

Cinematheque

Screenings are free and take place in the Alan and Elaine Ameer Theater, on the first floor of Manzanita Hall at the southwest corner of campus. The theme of the film screenings for fall 2004 is "Story, Plot and Style: Principles of Screenwriting." Screenings will be Chacuno/A Studies Department chair Mary Pardo and department faculty Rodolfo Acuña, Jorge Garcia, David Diaz, Juana Mora and Deniso Szymbowski.
Rather than presenting a "monolithic" view of Latino life in California, the exhibition presents the experiences and accomplishments of individual leaders and organizations, said assistant archivist Rebecca Graf, one of the exhibition’s curators.
Drawing from the vast and varied collections in the library’s Urban Archives Center, "Cultura y Comunidad" includes documents, letters, photographs, posters and other memorabilia from figures such as Julian Nava, a former U.S. Ambassador to Mexico and a professor emeritus of history at Northridge; CSUN alumnus Frank del Olmo, the late columnist and associate director of the Los Angeles Times; and Chicano activist Rodolfo Acuña, a CSUN professor often cited as the "father of Chicano Studies."
"Cultura y Comunidad" is partially funded through the U.S. Department of Education’s Title V Developing Hispanic-Serving Institutions Program. ■