



CSUB's #10 Rank by the Economist for Economic Value of Degree is Latest in a Series of Quality Accolades

The
Economist

The Economist (October 31, 2015, "The Value of University: Where's Best?") ranking of colleges and universities based on the [economic value](#) of attendance places [CSUB at #10](#) out of 1,275 4-year, non-vocational U.S. colleges and universities. *The Economist* measured the value added of attending a particular college by calculating the difference in alumni's actual earnings and their predicted earnings, based on students' characteristics and background at the time they enrolled. A range of student and institutional variables from the U.S. Department of Education's College Scorecard and other sources were used, including: average SAT scores; gender ratio; racial makeup; fields of study; size of enrollment; percentage of Pell Grant recipients; whether the institution has a ranked undergraduate business school, is a liberal arts college, public or private, or Catholic- or Protestant-affiliated; the wealth of the state and prevailing wages in the city where the institution is located; and whether an institution's students are not profit-driven. These variables account for 85% of the variation in the salaries between colleges. Isolating the university's contribution from student characteristics provides a measure of the value added solely from aspects of the university. In contrast, popular college rankings published by *U.S. News & World Report* are based on surveys of reputation that tend to focus on the most selective institutions, and measure qualities of

the students who select those institutions, as opposed to the unique difference the university makes to its students' economic success.

Ten years after enrollment, CSUB alumni's actual median earnings was \$48,100 compared to the \$37,028 their backgrounds suggested they would earn. The \$11,072 over-performance places CSUB in the 99th (highest) percentile of value-added institutions, not only leading all campuses in the CSU and UC systems, but also all private 4-year institutions except one. Some institutions perennially listed at the top of college popularity rankings were lower on this value-added listing, indicating their students would have fared well irrespective of the institution attended. *The Economist* ranking validates our commitment to student success and the difference CSUB makes to economic success in our community.

Additional CSUB accolades include:

- Ranked at the **95th percentile** by [The Brookings Institute](#) for expected student earnings (October 29, 2015)
- Ranked **#5** among nursing schools in [California](#) by College Atlas based on affordability, academic quality, accessibility, and NCLEX-RN board exam passage rates (June 19, 2015)
- Ranked **#5** among all 23 CSU campuses for STEM-related grant funding with \$54 million in active grants (behind much larger campuses

Long Beach, Los Angeles, Northridge, and San Diego)

- Ranked **#8** [Best Bang for the Buck](#) by *The Other College Guide* among baccalaureate colleges and universities in the West (2015)
- Ranked **#39** by [Time Magazine](#) in its listing of top colleges and universities based on accessibility, affordability, and degree completion (April 24, 2014)
- Ranked in the **Top 50** - Hispanic Outlook in Higher Education (November 23, 2015) Publisher's Pick of the [Top 50](#) colleges and universities nationwide that provide outstanding opportunities for Hispanic students (November 23, 2015)
- Ranked **#51** among nursing schools in the [nation](#) by College Atlas based on affordability, academic quality, accessibility, and NCLEX-RN board exam passage rates (October 16, 2015)
- Ranked **#54** by Hispanic Outlook in Higher Education (May 18, 2015) in its listing of [Top 100](#) colleges for degrees granted to Hispanic students
- **Carnegie Community Engagement Classification** – [Carnegie](#) Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching (2015). The award of this nationally competitive classification validates our commitment to the strategic goal “strengthening community engagement.”

The outstanding work that has resulted in these accolades is attributable to our distinguished faculty and staff with strong support from the administration. I want to thank each of you for your contributions toward the achievement of the university's strategic goals which include “extending the excellence and diversity of our faculty and academic programs.”

Board of Trustees Approves Schematic Plans for Faculty Towers Replacement

At its November 17, 2015 meeting, the CSU Board of Trustees approved schematic plans for the [Humanities Office Building](#), the replacement for Faculty Towers. The \$7,790,000 project will demolish the existing building; centralize the six departments in the School of Arts & Humanities; create an Arts & Humanities quad; and provide 50 faculty offices, a dean's office, and four departmental offices in a 2-story 13,865 gross square foot facility built to LEED Gold equivalence. Replacement of the towers is a priority Level 1 on the CSU Seismic list. The project will be funded through system-wide revenue bonds and a \$1.5 million allocation from CSUB campus reserves. The project timeline calls for working drawings to be completed in February 2016, construction to begin in June 2016, with occupancy expected in July 2017. Two large capacity classrooms (140 seats) will be added to the complex on a slightly different schedule.

Roy LaFever Appointed to Second Term as Faculty Athletics Representative



I am pleased to appoint **Dr. Roy LaFever**, Associate Professor of Chemistry and Biochemistry, to a second term as Faculty Athletics Representative ([FAR](#)). The National Collegiate Athletics Association (NCAA) requires each of its member institutions to designate a non-athletics department faculty member or administrator to represent the institution and faculty in our relationship with the NCAA. In this role, Roy reports to me and supports my ability to provide the required presidential oversight of intercollegiate athletics, along with Vice President for Student Affairs, **Dr. Thomas Wallace**. At CSUB, we want to ensure student-athletes are fully integrated within the student body, including their academic

success as well as their co-curricular development, in preparing them for their life experiences beyond their athletic participation. An emphasis also is placed on team academic success as well as the academic success of individual student-athletes.

CSUB Achieves Bicycle Friendly University Status

The League of American Bicyclists has designated CSUB as a [Bicycle Friendly University](#) (BFUSM) in recognition of our demonstrated commitment to bicycling for active transportation and recreation. The designation was earned by undergoing a voluntary comprehensive assessment of our bicycling activities in five broad areas:



- engineering (physical infrastructure);
- education (programs to ensure the safety, comfort, and convenience of riders and others who share the road);
- encouragement (incentives, promotions, and opportunities to inspire riding);
- enforcement (programs to ensure accountability); and
- evaluation (processes to measure results and inform future planning).

Central to the achievement is our [Runner Ride](#) bike share program which offers a fleet of 25 bicycles faculty, staff, students, and alumni may check out at no cost for short-distance trips. Bike share is part of our commitment to reduce our carbon footprint and greenhouse gas emissions by reducing single occupant vehicle travel to and from campus. Additional initiatives include extension of our campus bike lanes, which include the first protected bike lane in Bakersfield; assistance with safe routes to the campus; bicycle education classes in collaboration with Bike Bakersfield; group rides; on-campus bike repair; and complimentary

access to Student Recreation Center showers and lockers.

Upcoming Events

Whether you are looking for academic, alumni, arts & culture, campus life, community, sports, or a calendar of highlight events, find them on [RunnerCal](#). Access the calendar on our website by clicking the “Events” link at the bottom of the home page.

University Council

University Council is an open forum for members of the campus community to voice concerns or make suggestions for continued improvement. All faculty, staff, and students are welcome to attend. The next meeting will take place on January 15, 2016.

I look forward to seeing you at the **campus holiday reception on December 3rd** in the Dezember Reading Room, around campus, or at another upcoming University or community event. Take care.


Horace Mitchell
President