



# 2023-2024 PHILANTHROPIC REPORT

# CSUDH

Dear Toros,

As the CSUDH Philanthropic Foundation Board Chair, it is my pleasure to serve with a wonderful group of leaders who are committed to our beloved university.

I want to express my appreciation to all the supporters of Dominguez Hills who actively champion the university's mission in our community and make our success possible. This year's annual philanthropic report is a testament to your belief in the power of higher education. I invite you to look back with me upon individuals, organizations, and companies who have invested in the ongoing success of our students. This report proudly highlights just a few stories of our donors who have propelled our students to new heights.

Private philanthropy is critical for our university's growth. It bridges the ever-widening gaps in state funding to provide top-tier education which allows our Toros to move up the socio-economic ladder. On behalf of everyone, I appreciate your annual support. Every donation, big or small, makes a significant impact. Thank you! You are an essential partner to our success. As a university, we have much to celebrate and feel proud about, and none of it would be possible without the support of our alumni, donors, partners, and friends throughout Southern California and beyond.

On behalf of the Philanthropic Foundation board, I am deeply grateful for all you have enabled our students to achieve and for helping to make education a priority in our community.

Together, Toros transcend boundaries and reach new heights!

**Maria Villa-Lathrop '82**  
Chair, Board of Directors,  
CSUDH Philanthropic Foundation

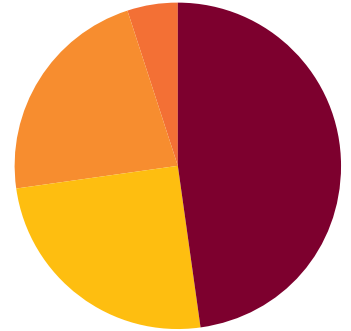
# FISCAL YEAR 2023-2024 BY THE NUMBERS

**\$8.6M**

**\$2.5M**

**\$8.6M** raised in cash & new pledges  
**\$2.5M** raised for scholarships

**\$4,103,161** foundations  
**\$2,145,509** corporations  
**\$1,903,930** friends/others  
**\$464,042** alumni



**129**

**\$26.5M**

**\$1.3M**

**\$7.6M**

**\$26.5M** endowment fair market value  
**129** endowed funds  
**\$1.3M** raised toward endowment  
**\$7.6M** raised in the last three years for endowment

**\$207,000** raised for the Toro Fund  
**\$148** average gift  
**721** donors

**\$207K**

**\$148**

**721**

The Toro Fund allows for flexibility in addressing emerging needs each year, such as offering recruitment scholarships, paying off minor debts preventing students from enrolling in their coursework, funding first-year experiences that contribute to student retention, and other programs to enhance Toro lives.

## The Inaugural “Toro Giving Day” Brings in More Than 570 Donors

March 20 marked a special day for Toro Nation. The campus’ first ever Toro Giving Day took place with overwhelming support from alumni, community members, leadership, staff, faculty, and students.

The day commenced with a bold participation challenge: if 300 donors make a gift of any amount, together they will unlock a \$20,000 challenge gift from the **CSUDH Philanthropic Foundation Board of Directors**. The response far exceeded expectations, and a second participation challenge was issued midday by Philanthropic Foundation board member **Dave Carothers ‘82** which attracted 150 additional donors. At the end of the 24-hour giving day, a grand total of 579 donors contributed more than \$106,000 towards various programs across the university.

“This was an incredible day for our community because we showed how we can come together to support our Toros and the great work being done here at CSUDH,” said **Eva Sevcikova**, vice president for university advancement and executive director for the Philanthropic Foundation. “I invite everyone to participate in the second Toro Giving Day on March 19, 2025.”

Dollars raised support our students in the most meaningful ways – tuition assistance for incoming and returning students, basic needs and mental health services provided through Toro CARE and Teddy’s Pantry, and student debt forgiveness are among the programs supported.

# TOYOTA LEADS THE WAY IN IMPROVING MOBILITY FOR UNDERSERVED COMMUNITIES



Left to right: Jason Zahorik (Toyota), Gregg Swartz (Toyota), Maria Villa, Eva Sevcikova, Michael Medalla (Toyota), Thomas A. Parham, Tom Stricker (Toyota), Kevin McKeever (KINTO), and Erin Caceres (KINTO)

In April, CSUDH and a long-time university partner **Toyota Motor North America** celebrated the 'Mobility for All' program, a transformative partnership aimed at enhancing transportation equity for the university and its surrounding communities.

The program's first phase, funded by a \$1.2 million grant from Toyota, established the **Center for Resilient, Equitable, and Sustainable Transportation (CREST)** to engage faculty and students in research, curricula, and internships to address mobility challenges.

"Toyota believes that when people are free to move, anything is possible," said **Tom Stricker**, group vice president of Toyota Sustainability & Regulatory Affairs, who traveled from Washington D.C. for the special day. "CREST aligns perfectly with Toyota's 'Mobility for All' vision, which aims to leave no one behind."

Recognizing that many of our students have transportation challenges, CREST will serve as an inclusive information hub, offering accessible and affordable transportation options for all students, faculty, and staff. Furthermore, its vision will extend beyond the university, aiming to benefit the City of Carson and other areas over the next five years.

In addition, **KINTO**, Toyota's car sharing program, will provide 20 hybrid and/or battery electric vehicles starting in fall 2024. To support this effort, CSUDH is partnering with **Southern California Edison** to install electric charging stations on campus.

Additionally, to further reduce commuters' carbon footprint CSUDH is in the early stages of reconfiguring the space along Victoria Parkway into a Metro Transit Hub. This joint project with the **City of Carson** would be funded by \$3.5 million allocated to the campus by **LA Metro**.

## EMPOWERING TOMORROW'S EDUCATORS



### CSUDH Grants \$935,000 in Scholarships Through the Toros Teach LA Program

CSUDH has allocated nearly \$1 million in scholarship funds through its groundbreaking **Toros Teach LA program (TTLA)**. In its inaugural year, TTLA awarded nearly 150 scholarships to aspiring educators specializing in early childhood education. Each student received between \$5,000 and \$10,000, minimizing their need to take out student loans or take on additional employment.

This initiative was made possible by last fiscal year's transformative \$22.1 million gift from **Ballmer Group** as part of our joint commitment to address the teacher shortage across the Los Angeles schools.

"This scholarship has reenergized my passion for leading the next generation as a future educator," said **TTLA scholarship recipient Angelica Casas**. "The TTLA scholarship has helped me tremendously in not needing to stress so much in wondering how I will continue to pay for school and bills. Instead, I now have room to focus on being the best educator I can be for my future students. It feels amazing knowing that our school and the TTLA project know there is a need for assistance for future educators. It makes me so proud to call myself a Toro."

In addition, over the past year, the Toros Teach LA team has worked diligently to develop and approve the new PK-3 credential curriculum, with classes set to begin in January 2025. To learn more, please visit [csudh.edu/ttla](https://csudh.edu/ttla)

## Double the Impact: Toro Guardian Scholars Meets Matching Challenge Goal

Last year, **The Change Reaction**, LA's direct giving foundation, issued a challenge to our **Toro Guardian Scholars (TGS)** program – raise \$10,000 by the end of 2024 and they will match it. The challenge ignited a wave of support over two months, with alumni and friends of the university rallying to leverage their donations. The Change Reaction then partnered with TGS and provided additional funding to the program and directly to dozens of qualifying students.

TGS was established to support students who have been in the foster care system. Out of the more than 400,000 former foster youth in America, only half will attend college and only 4% of this population will earn an undergraduate degree. TGS works to change this narrative. Serving more than 150 students on our campus, TGS connects them to a wide range of specialized services and resources that will guide them throughout their educational journey, helping them to obtain a degree.

Philanthropic investments in this program, and particularly the generosity of The Change Reaction, have opened many new doors for TGS scholars and provided them with a caring and personalized environment tailored to their specific needs. Thanks to the increased philanthropic support, the program now serves more students than ever before and has even seen students go off to graduate schools.



**Kaedyn "Frankie" Williams**

Art major

Presidential Scholars recipient

"Despite having a physical disability and coming from a family of immigrants, I have never let anything stand in the way of my dreams or education. Being named a Presidential Scholar is not just an honor—it's a testament to the support of everyone who believed in me. This program has given me a second family and pushes me to inspire others with disabilities, showing them that graduating from college is not a pipe dream but a real possibility."

As a first-generation Belizean American born with spina bifida, Frankie uses a wheelchair, but that has not slowed them down. By the age of 16, Frankie had already earned a high school diploma and an associate degree. Frankie's hopes to work as a curator in an art museum and combine a passion for art with a relentless drive for achievement.

Since 1985, **the Presidential Scholars program** has provided a pathway for exceptional students to access and afford a university education. Funded entirely through philanthropic gifts, CSUDH's most prestigious scholarship program provides full tuition and fees to our very best students.



**Raymond Hicks Jr.**

Computer Technology major

Southern California Edison STEM Scholarship recipient

"As the first in my family to graduate from college, I've faced many challenges to earn three AA degrees and pursue a BA in Computer Technology. After dropping out to care for my sick mother, I feared my educational journey was over, but resilience and determination kept me going. Now, I'm ready to start my career in IT, and I'm proud to be a role model for my young daughter, showing her that perseverance can overcome any obstacle. A heartfelt thank you to Edison! Your generosity has truly changed the lives of my entire family."

One of the nation's largest electric utility holding companies, **Southern California Edison** has been a steadfast supporter of our campus for more than three decades. Totalling over \$1.4 million, their generous philanthropic contributions have been instrumental in powering the future of our campus.



**Gisell Cruz**

Communication major

Gil & Shirley Smith Scholarship recipient

"The academic and financial challenges can be overwhelming for a first-generation college student. When I received the scholarship from Mr. and Mrs. Smith, I felt a wave of relief and gratitude. It was like a huge weight had been lifted off my shoulders. Their generosity has not only eased my worries but has brought me closer to achieving my dreams."

Gisell Cruz's journey to CSUDH is defined by her remarkable dedication. She drives over an hour each day to attend classes on her quest to become the first college graduate in her family.

**Gil Smith** made history as the first Black mayor of the City of Carson and its third mayor overall. His wife **Shirley Smith**, a former director at LA BioMed, established the Women and Philanthropy program at CSUDH to provide mentorship between accomplished professionals and university students. For nearly four decades, they have supported generations of students across numerous campus programs.



**Penelope Nelson**

Business Administration major

CBAPP Alumni Endowed Scholarship recipient

"I'll never forget the moment I received the news, standing with my parents, overwhelmed with pride and tears of joy, celebrating the culmination of years of hard work. This scholarship has been a life-changing gift. I am deeply grateful for the generosity of the donors who made it possible."

\$25,000 is the minimum gift to launch a new endowed scholarship, and typically a gift like this comes from a single donor. This endowment was born from a grassroots campaign that harnessed the collective power of many donors. CBAPP alumnus **Greg Haeseler**, in collaboration with the **CBAPP Advisory Board**, has successfully brought together more than 80 donors who together contributed to what is now the first college-based endowed scholarship. The fund continues to accept gifts of all sizes to further grow its reach.



The contribution funded the following cultural graduations: The Frederick Douglass and Mary McLeod Bethune Africana Graduation Celebration, Latine, Asian & Pacific Islander, Lavender (LGBTQ), UndocuGrad, and the Toro Guardian Scholars Graduation Celebration.

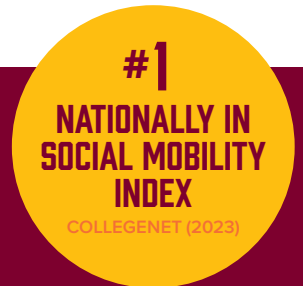
Through culturally significant events like these, CSUDH creates an inclusive and affirming atmosphere, reflecting the diversity of our student body. Not only do these celebrations honor graduates' academic achievements, but they also highlight the significance of family, community, and resilience in the face of adversity. Honda's partnership further supports our commitment to creating an environment where every graduate is acknowledged and celebrated.

Honda also generously contributed an additional \$7,500 to the **Toro Fund**, the unrestricted annual fund.

## **Honda Drives Diversity: Fueling Cultural Graduation Celebrations with Generous Contribution**

CSUDH received a \$10,000 contribution from **Honda** to support six cultural graduation celebrations in Spring 2024. These celebrations stand apart from traditional commencement ceremonies, offering a platform to honor graduates, acknowledge their journey, and celebrate their triumphs within unique cultural traditions.

# LEADING THE CHARGE



## **Top 20 Donors in 2023-2024**

CSUDH is fortunate to have philanthropic support from a variety of industry and community leaders. These stakeholders allow us to proactively address the ever-evolving needs of our students while staying at the forefront of college affordability and academic innovation. Thank you for championing the next generation of diverse leaders who will uplift their communities and create lasting change.

### **Ballmer Group**

*for the Young Males of Color (YMOC) CSU consortium initiative headquartered at CSUDH*

### **Toyota Motor North America**

*for the Center for Resilient, Equitable & Sustainable Transportation*

### **Pete and Linda Ortiz**

*for a bequest to the Christina and Sara Elisa Ortiz Endowed Presidential Scholarship*

### **College Futures Foundation**

*for the YMOC initiative*

### **The Ichigo Foundation**

*for the YMOC initiative*

### **Carson Companies**

*for scholarships covering full tuition and fees for future teachers and entrepreneurs*

### **Jean Stoenner**

*for a bequest to scholarships for first-generation students pursuing degrees in bilingual education*

### **Arnold and Mabel Beckman Foundation**

*for exceptional students in chemistry or biological sciences as Beckman Scholars*

### **Gilbert and Shirley Smith**

*for scholarships, internships, and the Toro Fund to address the most pressing needs*

### **Joe and Mary McKay**

*for endowed internships in clinical science and medical technology*

### **Douglas and Eva Le Bon**

*for the CBAPP Excellence and Access Fund*

### **The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation**

*for Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowships supporting students in humanities, arts, and social science fields who intend to pursue a PhD and a career in academia*

### **Google Inc.**

*for the Snap Inc. Institute for Technology and Education*

### **Angels Nest TLP**

*for the Toro Guardian Scholars program, which assists students with experience in the foster care system*

### **Golden Globe Foundation**

*in support of programs and scholarships for film, television, and media and journalism students*

### **Hewlett-Packard Company Foundation**

*for the Racial Justice in Teacher Education initiative*

### **Edison International**

*for scholarships supporting students pursuing degrees in science, technology, engineering, and math*

### **The Maureen P. McCarthy Foundation**

*for scholarships covering full tuition and fees for future teachers*

### **John and Gillian Wagner**

*for the Presidential Scholars Program, providing full tuition, fees, and related educational expenses*

### **Kaiser Permanente**

*for scholarships supporting students in the Clinical Sciences Training Program*



Office of Development  
 California State University, Dominguez Hills  
 1000 E. Victoria Street  
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 Carson, California 90747

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## 10 YEARS OF CSUDH PHILANTHROPIC FOUNDATION

A 501(c)3 organization, the CSUDH Philanthropic Foundation supports the University as a key educational, cultural, and economic resource for the South Bay. Established in 2015 as an independent charitable successor to the CSUDH Foundation, it encourages the solicitation and acceptance of private gifts to the University. As California's state budget has decreased in recent years and the university continues to prepare deserving and talented students for the demands of the regional workforce, the Foundation focuses on fundraising and endowment management to generate much-needed funds to sustain and grow CSUDH.

The Foundation is driven by a passionate volunteer board of directors, comprised of influential alumni and community leaders. They serve as trusted advisors to the university President and actively champion the university's growth and expansion. Over the past decade, they have contributed their vision and expertise, helping us achieve remarkable milestones. We extend our deepest gratitude to these leaders for fueling transformative change at CSUDH.

### 2023-24 CSUDH Philanthropic Foundation board members

- Maria Villa-Lathrop**, *Chair*
- Ted Ross**, *Secretary/Treasurer*
- Chris Carico**, *Community Director*
- Dave Carothers**, *Community Director*
- Mylene Mayers**, *Community Director*
- Michael Medalla**, *Community Director*
- Karen Slade**, *Community Director*
- Towalame Austin**, *Community Director*
- Tracy Gray**, *Community Director*
- Michael Kelly**, *Community Director*
- Taylor Watts-White**, *Student Representative*
- Kamal Hamdan**, *Faculty Representative*
- Thomas Parham**, *CSUDH President*
- Eva Sevcikova**, *CSUDH Vice President, University Advancement Executive Director, Philanthropic Foundation*

### Sony Music Group

The **Male Success Alliance (MSA)** has been awarded a second generous grant from **Sony Music Group's** Global Social Justice Fund, bringing Sony's total contribution to \$200,000 in support of this program. This critical funding strengthens our efforts to educate the next generation of young men of color, empowering them to become positive, contributing citizens in our global society.

MSA was founded in 2009 in response to the nation's high school dropout and low college degree attainment rates among young men, primarily Black and Latine/Latinx students. The initiative addresses these issues by providing a robust academic and social support system that fosters scholarship, intellectual curiosity, leadership, identity development, and civic engagement among its members. To date, MSA has engaged over 15,000 students, making a lasting impact on their educational and personal growth.

**Dr. William Franklin**, founder of MSA, states, "I want to express my deepest gratitude for Sony Music Group's generous funding. Their support will make a significant impact on our community, providing young men with invaluable opportunities and resources to succeed. We are incredibly grateful for your belief in our mission. Together, we are creating pathways to brighter futures and helping to build a more equitable society."



**SONY MUSIC**