

# MSI

## Male-Success Initiative Newsletter

Join us as we continue to uplift our brothers in a variety of programming

Discover our 4 Pillars of Success

Academic Coaching/  
Tailored Mentoring  
Career Trajectory  
Gender & Masculinity  
L.E.E.D.

MAY ISSUE

Achieving the Fullness of our Potential



**Brotherhood  
Spotlight**  
and student success



**Career Opportunities**



## Mission Statement

The Male Success Initiative-Fullerton (MSI-Fullerton) at California State University-Fullerton is “Where Undergraduate Men of Color Achieve the Fullness of Their Potential”.

Our purpose is to support and advance the outcomes of undergraduate men of color by providing tailored programming and services that equip and empower brothers with the skills and knowledge needed to foster academic success; establish a support network of mentors; increase graduation & retention rates; and strengthen the sense of brotherhood among all CSUF students who self-identify as men of color.

### STAY CONNECTED TO MSI-FULLERTON

 [MSIFULLERTON](#)  [MSIFULLERTON](#)  [FULLERTONMSI](#)

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# Futoshi Nakagawa

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Director of Male Success Initiative



While it's our incredible faculty that plant the seeds of higher ed knowledge in our students' brains, it's student affairs programs like MSI that help students grow during their time in college. And, I'll be the first to say that not every experience in college and in life may be pleasant. However, my advice is to just think of these challenges as fertilizer, which may stink at the time but ultimately helps one grow stronger.

Spring is nowhere, and we get to enjoy all the different varieties of beautiful flowers in full bloom. Let's not forget that each type of flower required its own unique kind of care to reach the fullness of its potential. In many ways, that unique care is what MSI provides. But instead of water, rich soil, and sun and shade, we have George, Janette, Steve, and Naji. And what blooms is brotherhood.



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# Programming & Events

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Learn about what MSI is putting  
on as well as events on campus

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# The Gathering

At an end-of-year celebration, the Male Success Initiative hosts "The Gathering" where brothers are recognized for their accomplishments throughout the academic year. Students are awarded gifts to prepare them for the next year. Our graduating brothers, receive our honorary sashes to proudly represent MSI at their commencement. Brothers participate in superlatives that are voted on, including "Most Valuable Brother" and "The voice of MSI". Congratulations to the brothers and staff for such an amazing year!





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# Student Activity

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*Hear about what our Brothers  
are doing on campus!*

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CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY  
**YOUNG MALES OF COLOR**  
CONSORTIUM

The Young Males of Color Consortium allows all 23 CSUs across California to collectivize the effort of supporting Men of Color. As participants, brothers engaged with like-minded communities, discussing, understanding, and empowering students and staff to create a more accessible and inclusive college experience.



*"We must explore the unique challenges males of color face as they move through the CSU, as well as develop effective approaches to better support them."*

*-Dr. Franklin and Dr. Smith | Principal Investigators of YMOC*



*"YMOC has taught me to 'be about it' and not just 'talk about it'. Go 110% into everything you do"*  
*-Eric Brown*



*"I found that YMOC put myself out there, encouraged me to become more involved not only on campus but life in general!"*  
*- Roger Perez*





# Matthew Vasquez

The College of Health and Human Development (HHD) recognized Brother Matthew Vasquez's remarkable achievements. They honored his accomplishments at the 2022 HHD Student Recognition Celebration



# Saleem Haider



Brother Saleem had the wonderful opportunity to study abroad in Barcelona on behalf of the Business Honors Program. "Having the chance to study abroad with some of my classmates was a life-changing and enlightening experience."

# Ariel Alvarez

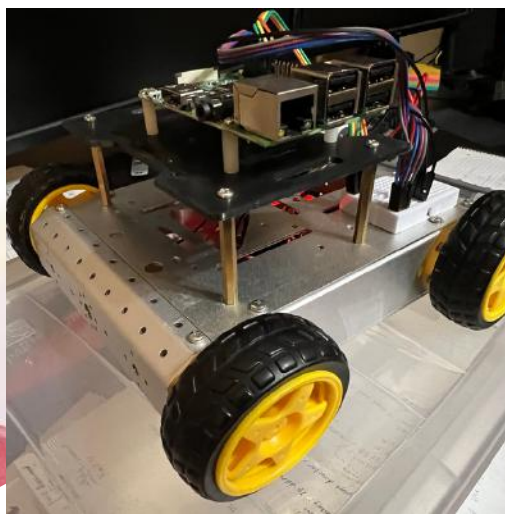
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Brother Ariel has been accepted into CSUF's English Single Subject credential program. He aims to be a high school English teacher after the program. "I'm excited to make a difference in the lives of generations to come." Ariel will be attending the credential program this fall.



# David Monterrosa

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Brother David has recently been hired as an engineering teacher for high school students. "I'm excited to finally use all the knowledge from school in a fun and new environment!" David will be starting this position immediately. Congrats Brother David!

# Spring 2022 Graduates

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## Carlos Acevez

One memorable experience I have is the first retreat. Meeting everyone and sharing a small room with strangers was a great experience. I look forward to grad school and getting a step closer to my career. Since I was a freshman this was the step I always wanted to go toward and to know it's finally here is surreal. Just want to shout out to everyone in MSI, every time I was I felt welcome by everyone and felt at home. From staff to the brothers, walking through that hall you enter a space where you matter and your seen which is needed on days you may feel otherwise.

## Isaac Alferos

Isaac Alferos serves as the 2021/2022 President of the Cal State Student Association. Before coming to the CSU, Isaac worked in his community training young leaders, organizing protests, and lobbying local officials to support underfunded schools. He brings this energy with him to the CSU through his work as an educational researcher and advocate. He spearheaded support of AB 1460 and pushed for greater investment into basic needs infrastructure throughout the system. Outside of student government, Isaac is the Executive Director of the Black + Brown Healing Project and a proud member of MSI, as well as CA Forward's Young Leaders Advisory Council.



## Ariel Alvarez Bautista

Altruism plays a key role in the life I try to live. I strive to assist others in any way I can because it is something I value. My family always did their absolute best to support me in my endeavors, so moving 2 hours away was gonna be a dramatic shift. Luckily, the community in MSI helped me feel a sense of belonging; I was able to gain a deeper insight into the community and how, as a collective, we are able to achieve great things. I've learned how to communicate with others on a basis other than academics, which is truly a vital feature to have. This fall I will be attending the teaching credential program at CSUF and hope to be a great influence on the generations of leaders I will interact with.



# Spring 2022 Graduates

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## Azaad Brar

Hi, I am Azaad as many of you may know. I am from Fresno, CA and I love the outdoors, and basketball, and have always had a passion for medicine. I have really enjoyed my time at CSUF and MSI over the last few years. My favorite memory has to be the retreats. I really choose a favorite between the first two as they were both great. After graduating I plan to attend medical school at Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine in Erie, PA. I'd like to thank the whole MSI staff for supporting me over the years!

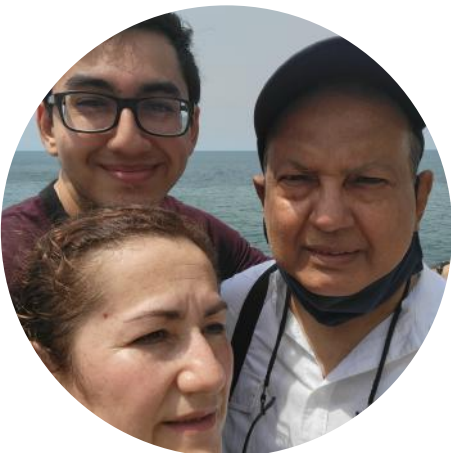
## Angel Cruz

I am a first-generation student who came in during the fall of 2018. I live in Norwalk, I am Mexican, I am 21 years old, and looking forward to graduating this spring and beginning a Business Business Sales Consultant position at Southland Data Processing. I was an accounting student then went into marketing and sales. I'd like to thank George, Dr.Harris, and my mentors for having a positive impact on me during difficult times.



## Saleem Haider

After graduation, I will be moving to Boston in July to start a new life with a company called EY-Parthenon. I am one of the first-ever students to get a job in this industry out of CSUF as opposed to an MBA program and I want to thank all my peers and faculty in the business college for their support. MSI has been a godsend in providing me with a family and social community during my shortened education at CSUF and I want to thank them for helping me become a better person.



# Spring 2022 Graduates

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## Esteban Hamilton

I came into Fullerton as a Freshman improvising, struggling, hiding, and hurting. With the help of a stubborn, loving, existentialist mentor walking with me, standing at my side, and drawing a line in the ground, he helped me reflect on what kept me from moving forward. What was I afraid of, what was holding me back, what kept me from reaching the fullness of my potential. If these words are being read right now it means that through grit and God's grace I reached that next level. Going forward from my Bachelor's, I will be working as a Substitute, where eventually I plan to apply for the Duo-enrollment Masters and Teaching Credential here at CSUF.

## Khoi Le

MSI has always been a big part of my life and I can't thank this program enough. I've gone on to intern in World of Dance and Anime Impulse. I look forward to working in the anime industry. Shout out to the boys. Shout out to my mom and my family. I can't wait for you guys to see what I can do in 10 years.



## Elston Lewis

My journey has been filled with memorable moments and people! During My last semester here I worked in the African American Resource Center. Where I was a Peer Liaison for the College of Engineering and Computer Science. In this role, I was able to serve my community by having programs to help black Engineering students. Some of my favorite memories of undergrad come from the MSI retreats and hanging out with my MSI brothers. After graduation, I plan to work towards a Ph.D. in Mechanical Engineering to conduct research in the field of renewable energy. I'd like to thank my parents for being supportive of me and my goals. Shout out to the 2018 Cohort we might be oldheads now but we're still young and have plenty more to accomplish!



# Spring 2022 Graduates

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## Miguel Santiago Alvarez

Thank you to all my friends and family!

## Mohamed Mohamed

I started off as a kid from Kenya coming to this country with next to nothing, but I've created a life I couldn't imagine. I'll be graduating, going to get my master's, I'm surrounded by the best support system I could ever ask for, and continuing to chase my dreams. Thank you to my friends, my brothers in MSI, my mentors George, Janette, and Naji, and, most importantly, my family. My time in MSI has made me a better man, brother, and son than I ever believed possible. Thank you, MSI for seeing the potential in me and nurturing it to help me become who I am today.



## Ian Pfitzer-Ortiz

My experience was one of finding myself and learning what it is I loved. MSI proved me with a safe space to explore my ambitions without too many risks to myself. I Have found the differences between my passions and my hobbies and am happy to say that I will be starting as a commercial sales rep At By alarm and waiting for news for a possible spot at UCLA film GRAD school!

## Thomas Tran

My love for computer science started when I was 7. My dad sat me down on our dusty old computer and had me play a bunch of different typing, educational, and even recreational games. I have made so many friends and strengthened so many bonds with family, friends, and even strangers playing games. It's these moments that sparked my passion for video games which is what inspired me to help create these special memories for other people as well as pursue a career in Game Development.



# GET GOING WITH MSI

Hosted by Alan Ruelas

Our podcast focuses on covering the Brothers within the program. Feel connected, inspired, and empowered by hearing the multiple personalities within the space, from scholars, to fellows, to the staff!

The 15-minute interviews are available on Spotify, Youtube, and Instagram @MSIFULLERTON



#GetGoing  
GET GOING WITH MSI HOSTED BY ALAN RUELAS - EPISODE 6 - MOMENT OF POTENTIAL FT. SEBASTIAN RIVERA

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# Student Resources

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*See what the campus and  
MSI offers our brothers*



# Become a Fellow

## THE MSI-FELLOWS PROGRAM

CHECKLIST

- 1. Entering the Space: Attend MSI Event; you must attend a MSI-Fullerton program/event and sign into the event as "Aspiring Fellow".
- 2. Place to Belong: Attend Brotherhood Social, after signing into the event you'll be invited to one of the MSI social events (at this time all social events will be on campus -- no need to worry about driving somewhere); and sign-in to the event.
- 3. From their Lens: Interview 2 MSI Brothers, you'll be instructed to interview two current MSI Scholars or MSI Fellows (an email will be sent to you with more instructions)
- 4. Ensuring Future Success: Meet with Mentor, you will be required to meet with one of our MSI Brother-2-Brother Peer Mentor to review your long-term goals and how we, MSI-Fullerton, can help you achieve those goals
- 5. Welcome to the Brotherhood: Attend Fellow Recognition Ceremony, attend the end of semester recognition ceremony (in the Fall it is our final event: MSI Holiday Social, in the Spring it is our event: The Gathering)

Interested in becoming a fellow? Scan this QR code and follow our 4 step program!



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# Janette L. Hyder



Keynote Speaker:  
**DR. MICHAEL PEREZ**

*Professor of Sociology  
and the Faculty Athletics  
Representative at Cal  
State Fullerton*

Our final Gathering ahead of the biggest MSI Event of the semester featuring "**Identity, Storytelling, and Finding Balance: Practical Lessons from Critical Race Theory and Indigenous Perspectives**"

by Dr. Perez

## REFLECTING FOWARD: MEN OF COLOR PANEL



**JULIO PEREZ**

"To live is to suffer—but to survive, is to find meaning in the suffering."



**JOAQUIN VALDEZ**

"You can be no better teacher than you are a human being." - Earl V. Pullias



**JEREMIAH MOORE III**

Producer/Director who has worked on many shows like Donnie&Marie, America's Got Talent, and Key&Peele



**RUDY RAMIREZ**

"Grow through what go you go through."



**LUIS ECHEVESTE**

Luis is most passionate about the opportunity to help educate and inform his community of the various insurance products offered through the agency and protecting what's most important to his clients & friends.



**JOSE TORRES**

"Education is our passport to the future, for tomorrow belongs to the people who prepare for it today."  
Malcolm X

### HOSTED BY:

**JANETTE L. HYDER**

MSI Counselor/Senior  
Career Post Graduation  
Coordinator



# Naji Shtayyeh

## Head Check

### Mental Health Screener

Quick screening and survey  
for mental health services

It's important to check-in with yourself and reflect on how you're doing from time to time. This Head-Check is a simple and brief screening tool to help you do just that! This questionnaire will also help Naji have a better idea of what Brothers are going through, and get a better idea of what kind of mental health support Brothers want to see.

This questionnaire is completely anonymous and voluntary. HOWEVER, if you want Brother Naji to follow-up with you by email to check-in further please answer the last question on the survey in which you input your name, email, and CWID.



Contact CAPS at:

657-278-3040

[nshayyeh@fullerton.edu](mailto:nshayyeh@fullerton.edu)

EMPOWERING PEOPLE OF COLOR THROUGH



# Mental Health



Naji from CAPS talking about mental health of people of color, self-care, and finding resources

Tuesday, April 12, 2022  
MSI Lounge GH 229  
1:00pm-2:00pm

Our brothers have access to CAPS Liason Naji Shtayyeh, join our program to drop by and have a chat with him!

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# Tram Nguyen

## MATH MENTOR Tram Nguyen



### HOURS (APPOINTMENT ONLY)

**Tuesday** 8am-12pm and 1pm-4pm (GH 221)

**Thursday** 8am-12pm and 1pm-4pm (GH 221)

**Friday** 10am-12pm (via Zoom)

(Meeting ID: 410 353 0365 & passcode: csuf2021)

### SUPPORTED COURSES

Math 110, Math 115,

Math 120, Math 125,

Math 130, Math 135, Math 150A

Tram is a 3rd year Math major with a concentration in Teaching.

"I have always had a dream to teach, and I chose math because it is what I was good at when I first came from Vietnam my freshman year of High School. Why I decided to join MSI is because it is a great experience to both teach and learn from the Brothers."

Join the program to utilize her resources!

### SERVICES OFFERED

Math Support

Mentorship

Success Strategies

### TO SCHEDULE AN APPOINTMENT

<https://calendly.com/thingoctramnguyen/1hr?month=2022-01>

OR

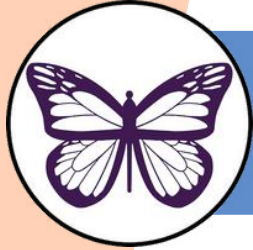


Contact: [zz-tramnguyen@fullerton.edu](mailto:zz-tramnguyen@fullerton.edu)  
MSTI Website: <http://ed.fullerton.edu/msti/>

# Diversity Initiatives and Resource Centers

The Diversity Initiatives and Resource Centers "support students by building communities that foster a sense of belonging, creating opportunities to engage in self-discovery and critical inquiry, and serving as a hub for resources in inclusive and affirming spaces."

We encourage the brothers to utilize these resources and continue creating community.



## Titan Dreamers Resource Center

TDRC provides undocumented students and those from mixed-status families with academic and emotional support, referrals to financial assistance and immigration services, information on programs and services that improve retention and graduation rates, and a comforting environment where students can connect with one another.

## Asian Pacific American Resource Center

APARC strives to unify and empower its community by serving as an academic and creative home for its students, staff, and faculty, as well as its external community links.



## Queer Resource Center

QRC aims to create an inclusive and affirming space and community for students, staff, faculty, and the broader community to explore issues related to sexual orientation, romantic orientation, and gender identity through an intersectional lens.



## African American Resource Center

AARC provides an opportunity for individuals to pursue the academic, research, and cultural interests of African Americans. It provides resources, services, programs and events that focus on the total integration and success of African American students.



## Latinx Community Resource Center

LCRC creates an inclusive environment for students to engage in history, culture, and equity issues in the Latinx community. We foster a sense of belonging while supporting the intellectual, personal, and social development of our students.



**DIRC is located in the Pollak Library at PLS 180**

**Monday-Friday | 8:00am - 5:00pm**

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# Editor's note

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Hey friends!

I'm beyond honored to be given this creative opportunity for a program that has given me similar ones like this throughout my entire college career.

Creating this month's newsletter was bittersweet. Many of these graduating brothers have a special place in my life of growth and motivation. I'm so excited for them to take their new step in life after college!

MSI is a unique and welcoming experience that has allowed me to grow academically, personally, and socially. Feel free to stop by and make friends with the many brothers within this space :D



**Jaron Ramos**

Student Editor | MSI Newsletter  
Newsletter approved by George Parker



Achieving the Fullness of our Potential

# Male Success Initiative

Gordan Hall 230 | Monday - Friday | 8:00am - 5:00pm

**STAY CONNECTED TO MSI-FULLERTON**



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