The Wang Family Excellence Award recognizes four outstanding faculty members and one outstanding staff member who, through extraordinary commitment and dedication, have distinguished themselves by exemplary contributions and achievements. Their activities advance the California State University’s mission, bring benefit and credit to the CSU, and enhance the CSU’s excellence in teaching, scholarship and service. Each recipient is given a $20,000 award.

The Wang Family Excellence Award was originally established in 1998 when then-CSU Trustee Stanley Wang provided $1 million to recognize the remarkable contributions of the CSU’s faculty and administrators over a 10-year period. Trustee Emeritus Wang has generously agreed to reinstate the award with a $300,000 gift that will provide a $20,000 award to each of four faculty members and one staff member annually for three years, beginning in 2015.

“We are absolutely thrilled to recognize our very best faculty members and administrators through the generous gift provided by Stanley Wang and his family. These award recipients are truly remarkable and are making extraordinary efforts to serve students and the global learning community.”

Timothy P. White
Chancellor, California State University
Stanley Wang is the founder, president and CEO of Pantronix Corporation, a high technology company in Silicon Valley. Established in 1974, the company serves the medical, aerospace, semiconductor, defense, energy and telecommunication industries.

Since 1989, Stanley has founded two factories in the Philippines and another in KunShan, China, specializing in volume technology services for the medical, computer, fiber optic, photonic and telecommunication fields.

Stanley has been involved in the founding and management of numerous organizations including Monte Jade Science and Technology Association, CIE, CASPA and AAMA. Monte Jade supports the exchange of technology, information and investment between Asia and the United States. Stanley is also a member of the prestigious Committee of 100 whose membership includes Yo Yo Ma and I.M. Pei.

Education is a top priority for Stanley. In 1994, he was appointed by then Gov. Pete Wilson to the California State University (CSU) Board of Trustees. During his tenure, Stanley established the Wang Family Excellence Award recognizing outstanding faculty and administrators at the CSU. He has also created a fund for forging academic links for student and faculty overseas study between the CSU and universities in Taiwan and China. In 2008, Stanley established the Wang Family Professorship in the College of Business and Economics at CSU East Bay. He also created a program for government officials from China to attend the CSU and take courses in public administration. Temple University’s Fox School of Business is home to the Stanley Wang MBA Center named in his honor in 2009.

Stanley is the recipient of numerous awards including the Lifetime Achievement Award from Global Monte Jade Technology Association, CSU Trustee of the Year from the California State Student Association, and the Community Service Award from the International Leadership Foundation.

In 2008, Stanley supported the creation of the Asia Business Center Leadership Scholars Program at UC Berkeley, an executive training program for academic, business and government leaders from Asia. Stanley is also involved in business/economics programs at the Stanford Center for International Development.

Stanley’s philanthropic involvement includes financing the building of schools and scholarship programs in rural areas of China; the creation of a Buddhist temple in San Jose, Ca.; the formation of a scholarship fund through Palpung Lungtok Choeling for financially challenged students entering a university; and numerous contributions to homeless and charity programs.

Stanley holds a bachelor’s degree in business/management from National Taiwan University, an MBA from Temple University, and an honorary doctorate from the California State University.
Dr. William Franklin is the Interim Vice President of Enrollment Management and Student Affairs at CSU Dominguez Hills, serving as the president’s chief advisor on student affairs and enrollment management issues. He has a Ph.D. from Stanford University, with an emphasis in Psychological Studies in Education, and a minor in Social Policy for Children and Youth. He is an alumnus of the CSU, earning his MA in Education Psychology and BA in Psychology from CSU Northridge.

As Interim Vice President of Enrollment Management and Student Affairs, Dr. Franklin works with academic and administrative groups to develop a comprehensive strategic enrollment management plan to ensure the university recruits, retains and graduates an academically prepared, diverse student body. He is also responsible for high impact co-curricular experiences and comprehensive student services. He engages all of the college’s constituencies to ensure students are successful.

Dr. Franklin has been instrumental in securing $12 million in federal, corporate and private grants for student success initiatives like GEAR UP: Gaining Early Awareness & Readiness for Undergraduate Programs; Title V: Hispanic Serving Institutions; Upward Bound I & II; Upward Bound Math & Science; Student Support Services and the Bridge Initiative. He has developed many nationally recognized and award-winning programs focused on supporting underserved youth in California, such as Encounter to Excellence and the Male Success Alliance, which helps young men of color in the South Bay be successful at CSU Dominguez Hills and other post-secondary institutions.

Dr. Franklin is also a prolific author of books and articles addressing underserved youth and education. He has helped unite the academic community with the South Bay community to advance educational equity, access, learning, assessment, retention and graduation among students.

“I have a sincere desire to impact the educational trajectory and success for first-generation, low-income students. As a first-generation student, I attended a CSU school from an underserved South Los Angeles high school. I desperately needed programs and services that encouraged my promise and did not limit me because of the risks evident in my life at that time. To that end, I consider it both a privilege and an opportunity to give back to the CSU system, because it literally changed my life.”
Dr. Arne Jacobson, Professor of the Department of Environmental Resources Engineering, joined the faculty at Humboldt State University in 2005, and is also the Director of the Schatz Energy Research Center. He served a year as the Senior Advisor in the Office of Policy and International Affairs at the U.S. Department of Energy in Washington, D.C. Dr. Jacobson earned his Ph.D. from the University of California, Berkeley, his MS from Humboldt State University and a BA from Earlham College in Richmond, Indiana.

As a professor, Dr. Jacobson teaches senior level engineering renewable energy design courses and graduate level courses related to energy policy, and he also provides counsel to students, departments and the university. As Director of the Schatz Energy Research Center, he leads a team of 25 faculty, staff and students in research and projects related to renewable energy, energy efficiency and energy access. He serves as Principal Investigator or co-PI on projects with budgets totaling more than $9 million.

Other affiliations include technical assistance for Lighting Global, a World Bank Group program supporting the development of commercial markets for affordable, quality assured off-grid solar energy systems used for rural electrification. Through his engagement with Lighting Global, he has led a team responsible for supporting the deployment of more than 6 million solar power systems in Africa and Asia.

Dr. Jacobson was awarded the Secretary's Achievement Award in 2012 by U.S. Department of Energy Secretary Stephen Chu for work related to international cooperation on energy efficiency policy. He has authored numerous articles about climate change, clean energy and solar solutions for underdeveloped nations.

“Addressing global climate change while simultaneously reducing world poverty is one of the greatest challenges of the 21st century. My life’s work has been to contribute to practical and lasting alternative energy solutions. As a teacher and mentor, I strive to provide students the skills and abilities they need to make a difference. My research work has included efforts to support the use of solar off-grid power systems to provide affordable and reliable energy for low-income people in Africa and Asia, as well as the development of renewable energy solutions for California. I feel fortunate to be in a position to work toward addressing some of the most pressing social and environmental issues of our times.”
Dr. Kevin Jordan has been a faculty member at San José State University for more than 30 years. As a professor of psychology, he has been heavily involved in graduate student education, serving as committee chair for more than 80 completed master's theses. He earned his Ph.D. and MS in Psychology from Kansas State University, and his BA in Psychology from Northern Illinois University.

Dr. Jordan also serves as the Principal Investigator of a five-year cooperative agreement between San José State University and the Human Systems Integration Division at the NASA Ames Research Center. He manages the activities of more than 80 post-degree professionals and graduate students and conducts collaborative research and development efforts in aerospace human systems integration. Since 1985, he has directed research agreements which have received more than $170 million in funding from NASA Ames.

During his tenure, Dr. Jordan's grant proposals have supported a world-class team of Researchers studying aerospace human systems integration. In 2011, the team was selected, as part of a competitive NASA process, to receive a $73 million cooperative agreement to support Human Systems Integration research. The value of this agreement has now increased to more than $83 million.

Dr. Jordan was awarded the NASA Exceptional Public Service Medal in 2014 for his outstanding support of human factors research, his contributions to enhancing the discipline, and enabling the next generation of leaders. He has published more than 80 research papers in the subject areas of visual perception and aerospace human factors including work for NASA, international symposiums and publications.

“I enjoy leading a team of students who collaborate with NASA scientists as they endeavor to build safe and efficient next-generation air and space transportation systems. As a result of this process, we train a workforce capable of meeting the challenges to make these systems a reality.”
Dr. Sora Park Tanjasiri, Professor and Chair of the Department of Health Science, joined the faculty at California State University, Fullerton in 2003 and is a Professor and Chair of the Department of Health Science. She previously served on the faculty of the University of California, Irvine, and earned her DrPH and MPH from the University of California, Los Angeles, and her BA from the University of California, Berkeley.

As a professor, Dr. Tanjasiri teaches undergraduate and graduate courses, conducts research and serves on a multitude of university committees and community-based boards. As chair of the department, she promotes the vision, leadership and logistical systems for 17 full-time faculty and 1,800 students. She is also the director of the university-wide Health Promotion Research Institute which facilitates the collaboration of more than 60 faculty members in health-related studies. She has authored more than 60 publications in the field of cancer health disparities.

Dr. Tanjasiri first began working with the Pacific Islander community in 1992 as an adviser to the California Tobacco Control Program. Since 2005, she has been the Principal Investigator of WINCART: Weaving an Islander Network for Awareness, Research and Training, a Community Network Program Center funded by the National Cancer Institute and Center to Reduce Cancer Health Disparities at CSU, Fullerton.

Dr. Tanjasiri is also Principal Investigator for a five-year study focused on promoting Pap testing among Pacific Islander women, and a four-year collaboration to promote cancer health disparities research between faculty and students at UC Irvine and CSU, Fullerton. This collaboration supports multiple studies exploring cancer disparities by gender, ethnicity and cognitive disability. In total, Dr. Tanjasiri’s research has garnered more than $15 million in funding from federal, state and local agencies.

“Universities must collaborate with communities to build and sustain long-term health improvements in our most vulnerable and invisible populations. While I as an educator work in the area of cancer disparity prevention and early detection, community-based participatory research has widespread applicability and I hope one day it becomes the norm in academia.”

Dr. Sora Park Tanjasiri

California State University, Fullerton
Professor and Chair, Department of Health Science
Director, Health Promotion Research Institute
Nate Thomas has been a professor in the Department of Cinema and Television Arts at California State University, Northridge for 25 years. He has also served as the Head of Northridge's Film Production Option in the Mike Curb College of Arts, Media and Communication for more than a decade. He earned his MFA-Cinema Production from the University of Southern California’s School of Cinematic Arts, and his BA in Theatre Arts from St. Edward’s University in Austin, Texas.

In the past four years, Mr. Thomas has continually been acknowledged for his outstanding work. He received a commendation from FBI Director Robert Mueller for his 30-second television public service advertisement on cyber predators and children, entitled “Family Dinner.” He also received a coveted Emmy Award for directing and producing a television public service ad campaign about intellectual property theft for the FBI and the U.S. Department of Justice. These 30-second spots dealt with the various dangers of counterfeit clothing, music piracy and theft of trade secrets.

As a testament to his abilities and reputation, Mr. Thomas was recently invited to teach in China as a guest film lecturer at Shanghai University, Shanghai Normal University, Nanjing University of the Arts and Nanjing University of Science and Technology.

While many in the pervasive film and television industries succumb to commercial sensationalism, I view the cinematic arts as an ever-changing art form with the capacity to become a catalyst of societal change. It’s important to me to share this perspective and I attempt to instill these values in each and every one of my students.
2015 NOMINEES

EDUCATION, AND PROFESSIONAL AND APPLIED SCIENCES
Dr. Hossein Bidgoli, Bakersfield
Dr. Julie Olson-Buchanan, Fresno
Dr. Sora Park Tanjasiri, Fullerton
Dr. Betty McMicken, Long Beach
Dr. Marguerite Ann Snow, Los Angeles
Capt. Samuel Pecota, Maritime
Dr. Sharrtiya Collier, Northridge
Dr. Richard Willson, Pomona
Dr. Caroline Turner, Sacramento
Dr. Jagjit (Jay) Singh, San Luis Obispo
Dr. Rajnandini Pillai, San Marcos

VISUAL AND PERFORMING ARTS AND LETTERS
Dr. Thomas Loewenheim, Fresno
Mr. Bill Cunliffe, Fullerton
Dr. Johannes Müller-Stosch, Long Beach
Ms. Enid Baxter Ryce, Monterey Bay
Mr. Nate Thomas, Northridge
Dr. Elise Wirtschafter, Pomona
Dr. Pattaratorn Chirapravati, Sacramento
Mr. Juan Delgado, San Bernardino
Dr. Aaron Lington, San José
Dr. Martha Stoddard Holmes, San Marcos

STAFF
Mrs. Kellie Garcia, Bakersfield
Dr. Daniel Wakelee, Channel Islands
Mr. William Franklin, Dominguez Hills
Mr. Charles Radke, Fresno
Dr. Lynn Mahoney, Long Beach
Ms. Debra Hammond, Northridge
Dr. Megan Stang, Pomona
Mr. Cesar Caballero, San Bernardino

SOCIAL AND BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES AND PUBLIC SERVICE
Dr. Jonathan Caudill, Chico
Dr. Jerry Moore, Dominguez Hills
Dr. Hasan Johnson, Fresno
Dr. Nancy Segal, Fullerton
Dr. Deborah Thien, Long Beach
Dr. Donna Nincic, Maritime
Dr. Susan Love, Northridge
Dr. Faye Linda Wachs, Pomona
Dr. Robert Wassmer, Sacramento
Dr. Montgomery Van Wart, San Bernardino
Dr. Thereasa Cronan, San Diego
Dr. Trevor Getz, San Francisco
Dr. Kevin Jordan, San José
Dr. Terry Jones, San Luis Obispo
Dr. Elizabeth Matthews, San Marcos

NATURAL SCIENCES, MATHEMATICAL AND COMPUTER SCIENCES
Dr. Robert Negrini, Bakersfield
Dr. Dingxin Cheng, Chico
Dr. Derek Kimball, East Bay
Dr. Yongsheng Gao, Fresno
Dr. Arne Jacobson, Humboldt
Dr. Chris Lowe, Long Beach
Dr. Cynthia Trevisan, Maritime
Dr. Donna Sheng, Northridge
Dr. Vilupanur Ravi, Pomona
Dr. Warren Smith, Sacramento
Dr. Jeffrey Davis, San Diego
Dr. Guna Selvaduray, San José
Dr. Jordi Puig-Suari, San Luis Obispo