Welcome

For nearly 75 years, Cal State Long Beach has fueled personal transformation and professional triumph. That’s why “Go Beach” is much more than a catchphrase to us — it’s our spark to empower and embolden our students and our community.

The touchstones illustrated here through stories and points of pride define our Beach spirit and bring to life our remarkable university.

Through this inaugural edition of Beach Book, we hope you will join in our affirmation to our students and alumni to charge ahead, powered and inspired by The Beach.
A BEACH EDUCATION IS AN ACCESSIBLE PATHWAY TO HEIGHTENED SOCIAL MOBILITY AND PERSONAL TRANSFORMATION.

No. 3 in the nation for advancing social mobility

109,200 mid-career salary

56% of bachelor’s degree recipients are the first in their family to pursue a university degree.

CSU Equity Champion for Black students

CSU Equity Champion for Latinx students

$109,200 mid-career salary via Payscale.com

56% of bachelor’s degree recipients are the first in their family to pursue a university degree via Payscale.com
After a long road to community college, Leslie Loftis’ transition to a four-year university was a “culture shock.” She explored another CSU campus closer to home but didn’t feel she would fit in.

“The Guardian Scholars orientation sold me on Long Beach,” said the sociology major. “Meeting students who were just coming out of foster care and older students like me — people who have been through what I’ve been through — made me feel like I could settle in here. I didn’t feel invisible.

“The program does give you a family feeling,” Loftis added. “That sense of community is really important — it’s been the most powerful thing for me.”

The Beach’s Guardian Scholars program helps current and former foster youth pursue and reach their educational goals through academic counseling, financial aid advising, tutoring, mentorship and skills assessment. Counselors also connect students to on-campus resources and services that ensure support during their time at The Beach, as well as college retention and graduation.

When fellow sociology major Georgette Shobeiri came out of the foster care system, help was not readily available. Although similar programs are now more common, as foster youth “it can be hard to believe that somebody has your best interest at heart. You’re constantly waiting for the other shoe to drop,” she said.
“It’s hard enough being a foster kid — but when you find that commonality and you have somebody that has that true understanding of what it’s like to go into the system, it makes you feel more comfortable,” added Shobeiri, who was once a court-appointed special advocate for foster youth and hopes to work with them or older adults after graduation.

Among the resources Loftis found helpful through the program were internship opportunities, including one that grew into a permanent position.

“All the internships I’ve had have been in line with my end goal,” said Loftis, who hopes to one day become an educator at a community college or work with a program like Guardian Scholars.

Indeed, the Guardian Scholars program complements a Beach education as a tool for personal empowerment as it removes barriers to student achievement, opens doors to personal and professional growth, and boosts opportunities for career success and social mobility.

“Most of the kids that come in are really young. They need that guidance — and to know that they need to self-advocate and take advantage of resources,” said Shobeiri, a Guardian Scholars Ambassador and the president of Fostering Futures, a student-run organization that offers support and fellowship to foster youth.

“Sometimes you need a person to hold your hand,” she added. “In whatever way I can support Guardian Scholars and advocate for them, I’m on board.”
When Nickey Diorio was deciding where to go to school, he met with different universities to determine whether they and their disability centers would be a good match. The Bob Murphy Access Center played a major role in his choosing Cal State Long Beach.

“At other schools, I didn’t feel like my autoimmune condition was understood well,” said the aerospace engineering major. “When I met with BMAC, they really listened. It was almost an hour-long conversation. That was the biggest deciding factor in choosing this school.”

BMAC ensures Beach students’ unique needs are supported as they achieve their educational goals and become ready for life after graduation. The center, which opened in 1973, is a pioneer in the California State University in removing barriers to success, access and inclusion.
Beach students benefit from centers that celebrate diversity, inclusion and social consciousness:

- AAPI
- Black
- Dreamers
- LGBTQ+
- Muslim
- Puvungna
- Raza

Students learn from more than 2,100 international students from over 100 nations.

The College of Education’s Teachers for Urban Schools Initiative addresses the nationwide shortage of teachers of color, especially Black teachers, by preparing educators who reflect the demographics and shared lived experiences of students in our local schools.
Programs at BMAC support specific challenges through multiple services, equipment, resources and partnerships. These include alternative testing accommodations, mobility support, assistive technology, psychoeducational evaluations and writing assistance for students with ADHD and learning disorders, and coaching and workshops for students with autism. BMAC is also home to the Accessible Instructional Materials Center, a technology and accessibility resource hub for the campus community.

The center works with all divisions and colleges on campus to ensure students’ evolving needs are met. In Fall 2022, BMAC saw its highest population yet, with over 2,300 students registered. “Our campus does a really good job of communicating and being inclusive with disability. Students feel welcomed here,” explained Mary Nguyen, the center’s director.

Nguyen is working with various groups on campus to include accessibility in conversations about diversity, equity and inclusion and “make a standard recognition that disability is part of diversity.

“It’s a human experience. I tell faculty and students that disability is the nation’s largest minority, where people enter either temporarily or permanently at some point in their life. Everyone experiences it — how can we not include that and understand how universal design can be implemented in everything we do?”

BMAC has been a source of support for Diorio prior to his arrival, helping him find appropriate housing, navigating financial challenges and more. “I had a caretaker during my freshman year because my condition was a lot worse — it wasn’t as well managed then — and we were able to dorm together,” said Diorio, who is now in his senior year. The layout of the campus, he added, is also easy for him to manage.

“They create a space for disabled students just like there is for any other impacted student. If you have a financial hardship, there are places on campus where you can get food (at no cost). I had that my freshman year and I felt just as included as I do at BMAC,” said Diorio. “There are a lot of different resources on campus that help with that feeling of inclusion.”
As the aerospace industry continues to grow in Long Beach and the Greater Los Angeles area, Cal State Long Beach is committed to building a talent pipeline and reshaping this specialized workforce through strong industry partnerships, experiential learning, a robust system of academic support and a diverse student body.

Candace Givens ’06 (B.A. economics) knows firsthand that Beach graduates can transform industry. She was already working at Northrop Grumman when she transferred to Cal State Long Beach, finding the university’s flexible schedule and lab classes a good fit.

“I’ve spent over 25 years working on satellites and in the space domain,” she said. “I love that we get to do things that people thought were impossible — we just figure out how to get them done.”

More than 355,000 workforce-ready graduates since 1949
No. 1 in family and consumer sciences/human sciences degrees
The Hispanic Outlook on Education, October 2022

No. 2 in visual and performing arts degrees awarded to Hispanic students
The Hispanic Outlook on Education, October 2022

$8.23 billion state economic impact by Beach alumni
CSU ICF Impact Study, 2021

The Beach’s economic impact in California is $188 billion.
CSU ICF Impact Study, 2021

Highest number of single- and multiple-subject teaching credentials awarded in the CSU
CSU, 2021-22
Givens, Northrop Grumman’s vice president of the Overhead Persistent Infrared and Geospatial Systems business unit, studied electrical engineering “for a long time” but ended up switching majors. “By the time I finished, I knew I wanted to go into management, lead people and understand a little more about the business. I was learning a lot of technology hands-on, at work. I enjoyed making that transition at Cal State Long Beach and getting my degree in economics.”

Like her, Beach graduates “are ready to hit the ground running,” she said. “Students from Cal State Long Beach come out better equipped because so many of them are working or they’re the first in their family to go to college, so they have a little more grit, a little more perseverance. They understand more about the world and adjust into our industry a lot better.”

Today, Northrop Grumman is the No. 2 employer of Beach engineering graduates. On campus, the aerospace and defense technology company supports the Northrop Grumman Veterans in Engineering Student Study Center, student chapters of various professional clubs, internship initiatives, and the Beach Engineering Student Success Team (BESST), which looks to increase the success rate of all College of Engineering students, especially those from diverse backgrounds and with the greatest need.

Givens was on campus to welcome BESST’s Fall ’22 cohort.

“When we’re trying to figure out how to do things that haven’t been done before, you need people from all walks of life and different backgrounds to contribute and figure out how to do that — and where better to start than at Cal State Long Beach?” said Givens.

“When we need to recruit, we know we can get that diversity of experience, that diversity of thought, bring it in-house and make sure that we apply it to our solutions.”
No. 6 in the nation in awarding bachelor’s degrees to Hispanic students

The Hispanic Outlook on Education, October 2022
THE BEACH IS RANKED AS ONE OF THE TOP PUBLIC UNIVERSITIES IN THE COUNTRY.

**Top 10 most-applied-to university**
U.S. News & World Report, October 2021

**No. 15 in awarding master’s degrees to Hispanic students**
The Hispanic Outlook on Education, October 2022

**First in the nation for student outcomes**
U.S. News & World Report, September 2022

**No. 18 Best Colleges of 2022 by Value**
Money, May 2022

**Top 10% of universities for return on investment**
Georgetown University's Center on Education and the Workforce, March 2022
Social Mobility, Outcomes Cap
Beach Honors

Cal State Long Beach was again named among the top public universities in the West in Fall 2022 and ranked No. 3 nationally in promoting social mobility in U.S. News & World Report’s annual rankings.

A deeper look at U.S. News’ “student outcomes” data, which factors substantially into the publication’s overall rankings methodology, also placed The Beach in the top slot, ahead of Princeton, Harvard, MIT and two flagship UC campuses.

U.S. News uses six-year graduation rates, first-year retention rates, graduation rate performance, social mobility and graduate indebtedness in determining their “outcomes” assessment. Social mobility credits universities for enrolling and graduating a high percentage of Pell Grant students, an indicator of economic diversity.

Among the top five performers for social mobility, the six-year graduation rate for Pell students was 72%; The Beach’s six-year graduation rate for Pell students stands at 74%.
Elevated to “Doctoral University: High Research Activity” (R2) status

Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education, 2022

A complementary nod to The Beach’s position as a social mobility leader is its recognition as a Champion of Higher Education for its work advancing the Associate Degree for Transfer program, making it easier for community college students in California to transfer to a guaranteed spot at a participating four-year university so they can earn a bachelor’s degree.

The distinction comes from The Campaign for College Opportunity, a nonprofit organization devoted to creating a stronger pathway for community college students to transfer and earn a bachelor’s degree. It also recognized Cal State Long Beach as a CSU Equity Champion for Black and Latinx students.

The ADT program, said Provost Karyn Scissum Gunn, serves as a bridge for local community college students to access a Beach education. “This effort places some of our most diverse students on a secure pathway to further pursue their educational and career goals with us.”

“We have been lauded for powering the social mobility of our students, delivering an exceptional educational experience at a low cost, effectively supporting our students through to degree completion, and advancing educational equity,” said President Jane Close Conoley. “I’m so gratified that The Beach continues to be recognized as a leader in American higher education, earning the confidence of students, their families, and our many alumni and supporters.”
Historic floods didn’t stop a group of Cal State Long Beach geology students from mapping fault lines and documenting how the Earth has changed over time.

The Summer Field Geology capstone is a four-week research-intensive class where students and instructors travel across California, Arizona, Nevada, Utah and Montana to study the Earth’s geological secrets. Despite the elements, the group of students came away not only with the completion of the course that is critical for careers in geology, but a better understanding of how the Earth has transformed over millions of years.

The course is one of many immersive learning opportunities at Cal State Long Beach that provide applicable instruction, amplify practical learning beyond the classroom and prepare students for the workforce and advanced studies.

“There are so many variables to the Earth and processes that create our landscape that the only way to learn about them is to experience them in...
the field,” said Spencer Cooper ’22, a fourth-year student in the Department of Geological Sciences. “Because of our proximity to the beach and the deserts of Southern California, we spent a lot of time looking at geologic features in these settings.”

Once the 1,500-mile trip began, the students found the classroom situation wholly different than what they were used to. They took notes on rocky outcroppings, hiked through narrow mountain gaps and mapped layers of mountain ranges.

The course was nearly canceled in 2020 by COVID-19 restrictions and prohibitive travel and lodging costs. That’s when Geological Sciences Chair Rick Behl reached out to alumni and supporters, who raised the funds to continue this essential course.

“Real training, not virtual, is required by the California State Board to be a certified geologist,” Behl said. “The Spring and Summer programs are key to them moving forward.”

“Learning to map and field work in inclement weather, experiencing a 100-year flood in Montana, and seeing a wide range of geology in such a short time was a whole new experience for me,” said James Wasserman, ’22.

Desiree Guzman, who will complete her B.S. in Geological Sciences this fall, said she learned a whole new skill set during the class.

“We learned how to map geomorphic features, create geological maps, identify minerals and rocks, create a stratigraphic column and create a cross-section,” Guzman said. “We also practiced using our critical thinking skills to make interpretations about geologic sequence of events.

“These are important skills to have, and I will definitely use them as I pursue my Ph.D.”
Venues including the Bob Cole Conservatory of Music and the Carolyn Campagna Kleefeld Contemporary Art Museum welcome student-led performances and exhibitions.

The College of Engineering is home to more than 20 laboratories and research facilities where students apply cutting-edge technology to solve real-world problems. Among these is the Rocket Lab, which offers practical experience to students set to join the astronautics and aeronautics fields.

College of Business students that form part of the Beach Investment Group gain real-world experience in portfolio management and security analysis as they manage more than half a million dollars’ worth of portfolios.

The Beach’s Shark Lab trains the next generation of marine biologists by using innovative technology to study marine animals while addressing conservation and restoration of depleted populations.
By the Numbers

38,273 enrolled students
Fall 2022

174 academic programs offered
Fall 2022

75% of full-time undergraduate students receive some form of financial aid.*

49% of undergraduates received Pell grants.
Fall 2022

The Beach benefits from its students’ rich diversity of backgrounds:

- Hispanic / Latino: 47%
- Asian American: 20.6%
- White / Caucasian: 16%
- Non-Resident: 6%
- Two or more races: 4.3%
- African American: 3.6%
- Declined to state: 2.2%
- Native Hawaiian / Pacific Islander: 0.2%
- American Indian: 0.1%

Fall 2022

*2021-22

49% of undergraduate students received Pell grants.
Fall 2022
11,096 degrees awarded

$223 million in scholarships & grants awarded

$7,966 average need-based scholarship award

First-time Freshmen
Average Admitted GPA 3.92
Average Admitted SAT 130

The Beach has the largest on-campus solar panel array in the CSU.

Long Beach State sponsors 19 intercollegiate athletic teams and has won 12 national titles. For the 16th year, it exceeded the minimum standard set by the NCAA for Academic Progress Rate data for the four-year period ending in 2020-21. The Beach is the only school in the CSU to have passed the minimum standard in all sports.
Sources of New Gifts
Fiscal Year 2021-22

- 39.3% ALUMNI
- 27.3% FRIENDS
- 15.1% FOUNDATION
- 11.7% CORPORATIONS
- 1.6% ORGANIZATIONS
- 1.5% PARENTS
- 3.4% CORPORATE FOUNDATIONS

Designation of New Gifts
Fiscal Year 2021-22

- 83.5% ACADEMIC AFFAIRS & OTHER COLLEGES
- 4.96% UNIVERSITY PROGRAMS
- 3.33% STUDENT AFFAIRS
- 0.68% PRESIDENT’S SCHOLARS
- 1.34% LIBRARY SERVICES
- 4.02% BEACH ATHLETICS
- 2.17% BEACH FUND
Endowment Market Value

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Fundraising Totals

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Launched in September 2022, No Barriers is a transformational $275 million comprehensive fundraising campaign that will create a national model for student achievement, empowerment and equity; shape California’s future workforce; and elevate our community, advancing the public good.