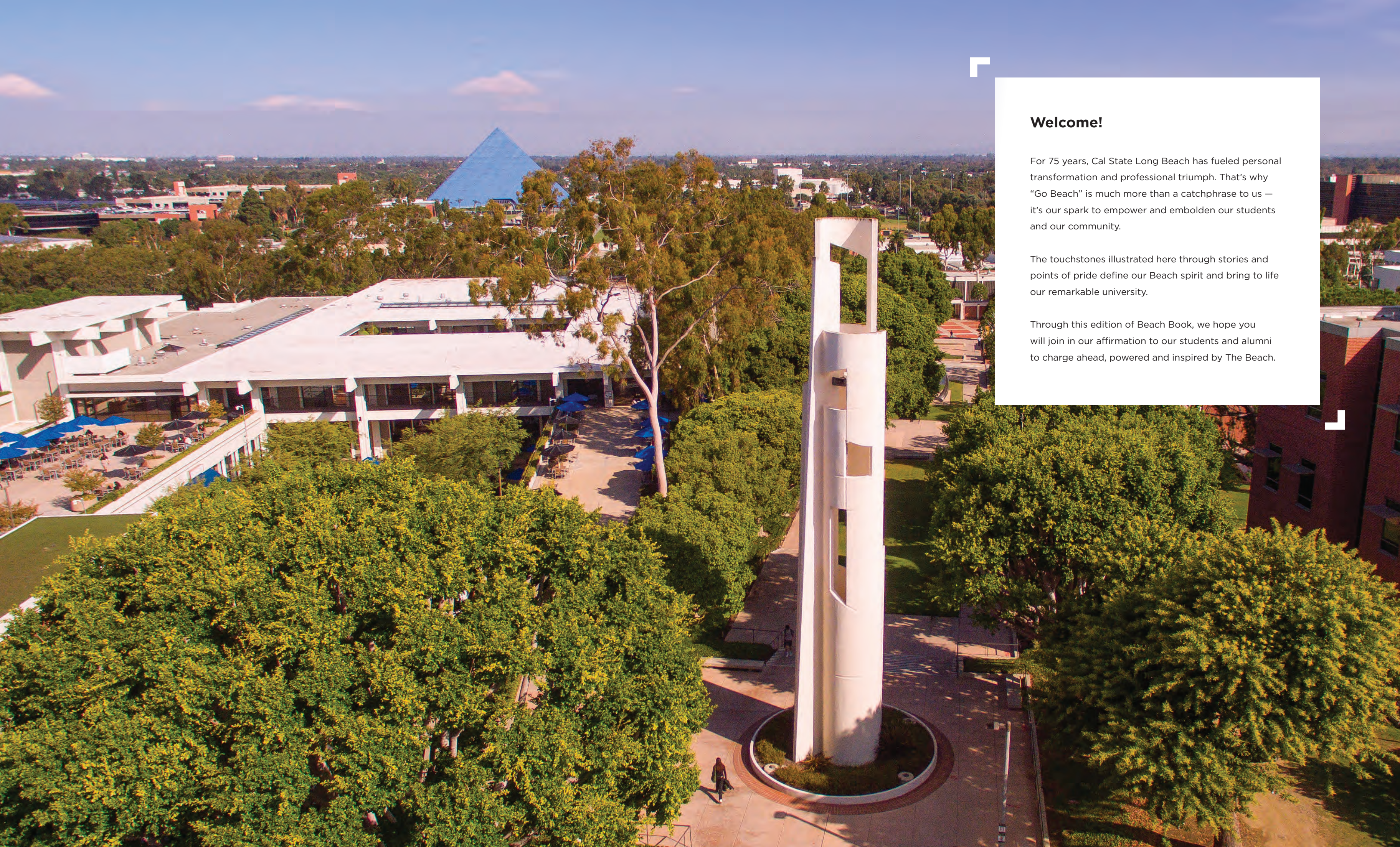


2024

BeachBook



CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY
LONG BEACH



Welcome!

For 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 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.



Inclusive

THE BEACH IS STRENGTHENED BY AND BENEFITS FROM ITS VIBRANT DIVERSITY.

Honoring Tradition and the First Peoples

The CSULB Pow Wow returned to campus in 2023 after a three-year hiatus, finding its way back to the traditional land of the Indigenous tribes of the Gabrielino/Tongva/Kizh and Acjachemen/Juaneño.

The longest running university-based powwow west of the Mississippi River celebrated its 50th anniversary with thousands of people coming from local communities and as far as the Pacific Northwest, Michigan and Canada.

Established by American Indian students in 1969, the powwow attracts Native American dancers and drummers from around the nation. It's still the largest and oldest continuously running student-sponsored event on campus, where about .01% of students are American Indian, although more than 500 identify as being of mixed Native American heritage.

"This is the largest gathering of American Indians in Los Angeles and Orange County," said Craig Stone, an American Indian Studies professor emeritus and director of the American Indian Studies program at Cal State Long Beach, who was chosen to be the event's head man dancer. "You go to our powwow, and you'll hear different languages spoken. Different languages are sung. There are different traditions and so forth, but it's all part of one big celebration of life."



Tribal histories locate the village of Puvungna, once a large and thriving community, within Cal State Long Beach. Puvungna continues to hold significance for several tribal groups and is used for ceremonies and gatherings.

A multi-acre site on the west side of campus, thought by many to be the only undeveloped remnant of Puvungna, is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and the Native American Heritage Commission's Sacred Lands Inventory. A restrictive covenant for this land was established in fall 2021 to protect Puvungna in perpetuity.

"I've been coming here since I was 3," said Miztla Yolxochitl Aguilera '20, who is of Gabrielino-Tongva and Mexican ancestry. "This is my home powwow. I grew up here. Most of the people here have seen me since I was a little girl. This powwow has really been my support system, my family. I have essentially been raised by the people around me here."

A significant part of the event is the traditional dancing, singing and drumming. Participants dress in outfits and regalia that reflect their tribes. American Indian arts, crafts and food are also displayed and sold.

Sarah Mueller, a student of studio art, volunteered at the American Indian Student Council booth. "I feel honored to be able to participate in this event," she said. "I have attended multiple powwows I think it's really important to have that representation, especially on campus."

A Hispanic-Serving Institution, The Beach earned the 2023 Seal of Excelencia for its commitment to Latinx students.

The Beach is No. 6 and No. 13 in the nation for granting bachelor's and master's degrees to Hispanic students, respectively.

The Hispanic Outlook on Education, 2023

Among the CSULB centers that celebrate diversity, inclusion and social consciousness are the AAPI, Black, Dreamers, LGBTQ+, Muslim, Puvungna, Raza and Bob Murphy Access centers.

The Beach is among the top 10 LGBTQ-friendly universities in the West, tying for No. 2 in California.

Campus Pride Index, 2023

inclusive

Impactful

OUR GRADUATES INDIVIDUALLY - AND THE UNIVERSITY AS A WHOLE - SHOW THE POWER AND REACH OF THE BEACH AS A CATALYST FOR OUR STATE AND OUR COMMUNITIES.

Powering the Health Care Workforce

Amayla's lived experience as an autoimmune disease patient strengthened her conviction to study nursing.

"Nurses have always shown me compassion," she said. "I have always felt the need to give back to the profession by being a nurse myself. No matter what area of health care, nurses have always been by people's sides, ensuring needs are met.

"I hope to serve my community by implementing these qualities into my practice. I hope to make others feel that someone is advocating for them during a difficult time," added Amayla, who graduated with a B.S. in nursing last spring.

As California faces a shortage of roughly 36,000 registered nurses, CSULB's School of Nursing is strengthening the health care workforce with a near-100 percent pass rate in NCLEX-RN, a required examination for the licensure of nurses, as well as strong partnerships, innovative programs and a committed faculty that reflects California's diversity.

Health care partners in the area — MemorialCare Long Beach Medical Center, Tibor Rubin VA Medical Center, Hoag Hospital and others — allow Beach students to perform their clinical rotations not far from campus. Students serve a diverse population with a wide range of needs.





Impactful

“Our partners work hard with our students,” said Michael Williams, director of the School of Nursing. “They want them to succeed.”

Besides required clinical practice in health care environments, state-of-the-art simulated settings in the university’s College of Health and Human Services guarantee that every student is faced with cardiac arrest and other emergency situations that build their preparation. “The standardization of patient experiences, even if they’re virtual, has helped all our systems skills,” said Williams.

The school’s BSN-DNP program allows students to pursue their Doctor of Nursing Practice diploma after completing their Bachelor of Science in nursing degree. The program focuses on five nurse practitioner specialties and prepares advanced practice nurses for complex practice, leadership clinical roles and teaching positions at community colleges and universities in the state.

“People love our graduates,” said Williams. “They will hire them without question.”

While the nursing shortage is worrying, so is the nursing faculty shortage — but opportunities at the School of Nursing allow Beach students to hone their skills in non-clinical options as well. While pursuing her degree, Amayla spent time as an instructional student assistant for the Human Anatomy course, a tutor for many biology and nursing courses, and as the pre-nursing director for the California Nursing Students Association.

“In the School of Nursing, so many instructors demonstrate a love for what they do,” said Amayla, now a registered nurse. “They remind me what I’m working towards, which has been so motivating.”

More than 389,000 workforce-ready Beach graduates since 1949

CSULB’s economic impact in California is \$1.88 billion.

CSU ICF Impact Study, 2021

Beach alumni’s economic impact in the state is \$8.23 billion.

CSU ICF Impact Study, 2021

No. 1 in history and family and consumer sciences/human sciences degrees awarded to Hispanic students

The Hispanic Outlook on Education, 2023



Empowering

A BEACH EDUCATION IS AN ACCESSIBLE PATHWAY TO HEIGHTENED SOCIAL MOBILITY AND PERSONAL TRANSFORMATION.

Project Rebound Fuels Reintegration and New Beginnings

It took Wynn Nguyen a couple of tries to get her B.S. in social work. Addiction and incarceration got in the way more than once, and her first acceptance into CSULB right after high school did not last long.

Nguyen's addictions, she said, "really took me to a place I never thought I'd go."

After her last prison term, she got help for her addictions and re-matriculated at The Beach. She connected with Project Rebound, a CSU-wide program that helps formerly incarcerated individuals transform their lives through higher education. Through the program, she received a scholarship that covered tuition, books and technology expenses for a year.

"Having a group of people who understand what it's like to be formerly incarcerated gives me hope to make positive changes," Nguyen said.

At Cal State Long Beach, nearly 100 students have benefited from Project Rebound, which provides scholarships, internships, basic needs, counseling, pro bono legal services and

**No. 1 among
'national universities'
in promoting social
mobility**

U.S. News & World Report, 2023

**\$126,000
mid-career pay**

payscale.com, 2023

**54% of bachelor's
degree recipients
are the first in their
family to earn a
four-year degree.**

Fall 2023

**In the top 10%
of universities for
return on investment**

Georgetown University, 2022

academic advising. The program helps to remove barriers toward personal and professional empowerment, opening doors for success at The Beach and beyond.

There has also been a special effort at CSULB's Project Rebound to make it more gender equitable. In the United States, men far outnumber women in the prison system. At CSULB, 32.3% of current participants in Project Rebound identify as female.

Dr. James Binall, executive director of Project Rebound at The Beach, credits Irene Sotelo for the program's successful reach to women. The program director co-founded the student organization Rising Scholars in 2017, which served as the springboard for Project Rebound.

Sotelo has organized women's gatherings and promoted higher education in area women's jails and juvenile halls.

"We're noticing there are a lot more women in our program," said Sotelo, herself a formerly incarcerated and homeless CSULB graduate with a master's in social work. "It's easy for a male to go right back to work after prison. For a woman, it's hard to get jobs, to get a degree - there's a stigma attached to having a criminal record. Now, there are more opportunities for men and for women."

The program, as with others at The Beach, helps to level the playing field for students in need of assistance by building community and opening doors to opportunity.

"As a person in recovery from addiction, I was drawn to work with other individuals struggling with substance use disorder," said Nguyen. "I knew I would be able to use my experience to help others. I decided that I wanted to pursue a degree in social work so that I could continue to improve on my skills to help others and be an agent of change."

empowerment



Experiential

HANDS-ON, IMMERSIVE LEARNING EXPERIENCES IN AND OUTSIDE OF THE CLASSROOM DEEPEN AND ENRICH A BEACH EDUCATION.

Shoreline Research Shapes Future Scientists

The shorelines of Long Beach, Huntington Beach and Seal Beach are known for the swarms of stingrays that are drawn to their warmer shallow waters. While the “stingray shuffle” is still the best way to avoid them, a group of Cal State Long Beach marine biology students are studying these vertebrates to improve beach safety and avoid stingray-related injuries.

The students, under the guidance of Benjamin Perlman, Ph.D., a lecturer in the Biological Sciences Department, studied how to step on a round stingray without getting stung by their barbs.

“What we’ve noticed during our tests is that they strike, in most instances, when they are completely restricted from movement by being stepped on in the middle region of their body,” said Anthony McGinnis, a marine biology major. “If you step on their pectoral fins or snout, they generally look to escape or swim away.”

Perlman and his student team use ocean seines — large nets that capture fish that are dragged past the surf — to collect round stingrays. While a graduate student uses her catch to study the density and abundance of round stingrays, others transport the fish back to campus. Using a fake foot to simulate stepping on the rays, they measure the speed at which the tail moves and the acceleration at the end of the tails, and estimate the force it generates when it strikes.





With a donation from an anonymous alumnus, the marine biology students are also studying the kinematics or locomotion of the tail-strike behavior with a group of engineers to produce a prototype of stingray-resistant neoprene surf boot that will prevent the barbs from penetrating.

Perlman's students attach stingray barbs to a machine to repeatedly poke at the neoprene material and test its strength. They measure the sharpness of the barbs, the number of serrated notches, the differences between males and females and their behavior.

These learning experiences, both in the lab and along nearby shores, are some of the many immersive Beach opportunities that provide applicable instruction beyond the classroom and prepare students for advanced studies and the workforce.

McGinnis is gaining valuable training through this opportunity and his work in the university's Shark Lab.

"I've learned how to conduct field research, how to analyze data and have also gained vital computational skills," he said. "I've learned to do shark tagging, how to handle and de-barb rays ... all those things have definitely benefited me.

"With Dr. Perlman's help I was able to get a scholarship from the Aquarium of the Pacific and be a part of their African American Scholar program," he added.

This trajectory also led McGinnis to pursue his American Academy of Underwater Sciences certification in scientific diving so he can conduct underwater research. The collection of opportunities and skills learned along the way will round out his academic qualifications as he pursues a master's degree at The Beach and, eventually, a Ph.D.

The Beach's Speech-Language Clinic offers diagnostic and therapeutic services to the community while providing students with clinical experience.

Future engineers prepare for careers in the astronautics and aeronautics fields at the university's Rocket Lab.

The Beach Investment Group helps College of Business students gain real-world experience in portfolio management and security analysis.

CSULB's School of Social Work places students in middle schools and Boys & Girls Clubs to provide counseling, mentorship and child and family support.



Distinctive

THE BEACH IS RANKED AS ONE OF THE TOP PUBLIC UNIVERSITIES IN THE COUNTRY.

Beach Educators Headline Top Media Market

There's more than one generation whose music landscape was forever changed by De La Soul. In the spring of 2023, when the iconic group's music catalog became available for streaming after a lengthy legal battle — shortly after member David Jolicoeur died — National Public Radio interviewed Oliver Wang about this part of hip-hop history. They also asked the Cal State Long Beach professor of sociology to write Jolicoeur's obituary for their website.

Wang is no stranger to queries from local and national media. Besides popular music, his other research interests include identity and community formation, race and ethnicity and popular culture. He's also project curator for the Japanese American National Museum, working on an exhibit about Japanese American car culture in Los Angeles.

Even in the resource-saturated LA metropolitan area — the second largest media market in the country, a hub of the music industry and a region heavy with institutions of higher learning — Wang is a go-to for features and interviews that address his areas of mastery.

Among the 'Best Colleges in America'
4.5 stars out of 5

Money.com, 2023

Among the top 50 U.S. 'national universities'

Washington Monthly, 2023

First in the nation for student outcomes

U.S. News & World Report, 2022

No. 1 most applied-to campus in the CSU

calstate.edu, 2023

So is Jason Whitehead, associate professor of political science at The Beach, who offers insight into Supreme Court decisions and other current political matters. And Laura Gonzalez, associate professor of finance, who shares facts and views on the state and the nation's economic progress. They're just a few of many well-prepared Beach academics who are regularly called upon to give interviews, provide commentary and offer insight and analysis about a wealth of subject matters.

The reputation of The Beach's go-to experts is culled from the university's focus on innovation, partnerships and practice-informed research. Particular areas of Beach expertise also lift the voices of the university's educators in the busy media landscape. Among the areas at Cal State Long Beach attracting the most interest is the Shark Lab, led by Chris Lowe, professor of marine biology. A hub of all things shark, the lab and its resident experts — Lowe and his students — are regularly contacted to discuss the often-misunderstood creatures and related coastal phenomena. In 2023, Shark Lab research revealed that juvenile white sharks are nowhere near as bloodthirsty or as threatening to humans as once thought.

The white shark study, along with Wang's commentary about De La Soul and Jolicoeur, were news media's strongest draws to The Beach last year — confirmation that in one of the "Best Colleges in America," unique perspectives and honed expertise complement the demands of a busy and competitive news environment.



Our Impact

10,907
degrees
awarded*

39,530
enrolled students

Fall 2023

3.77
average GPA
for first-time
students

Fall 2023

\$254 million
in scholarships &
grants awarded*

50%
of undergraduates
received Pell grants.*

190+
academic
programs
offered

Fall 2023

\$8,066
average need-based
scholarship award*

(full-time undergraduates)

72% of full-time
undergraduate
students receive
some form of
financial aid.*

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

Hispanic / Latino	48.5%
Asian American	20%
White / Caucasian	15.2%
Non-Resident	5.6%
Two or more races	4.6%
African American	3.6%
Declined to state	2%
Native Hawaiian / Pacific Islander	0.2%
American Indian	0.1%

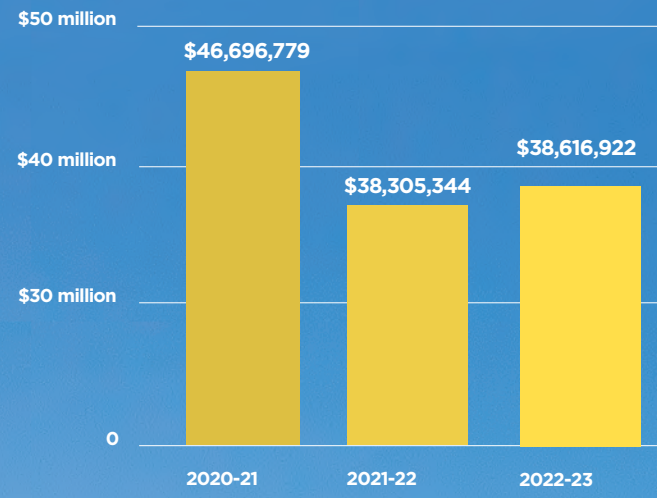
Fall 2023

Long Beach State
sponsors 19 intercollegiate
athletic teams and has won
9 Division I national titles.

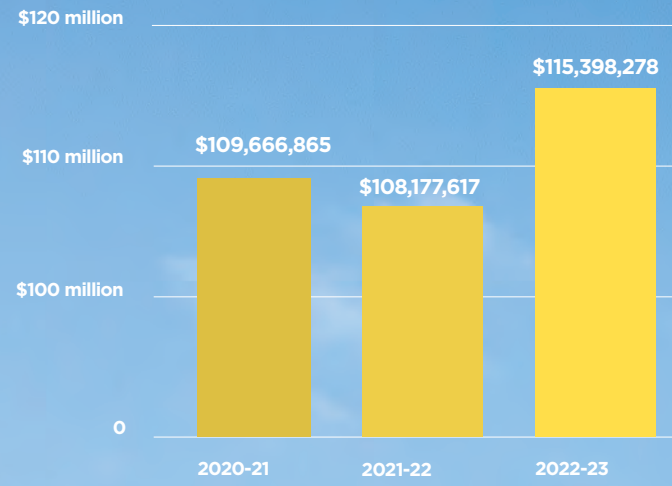
Our Impact



Fundraising Totals

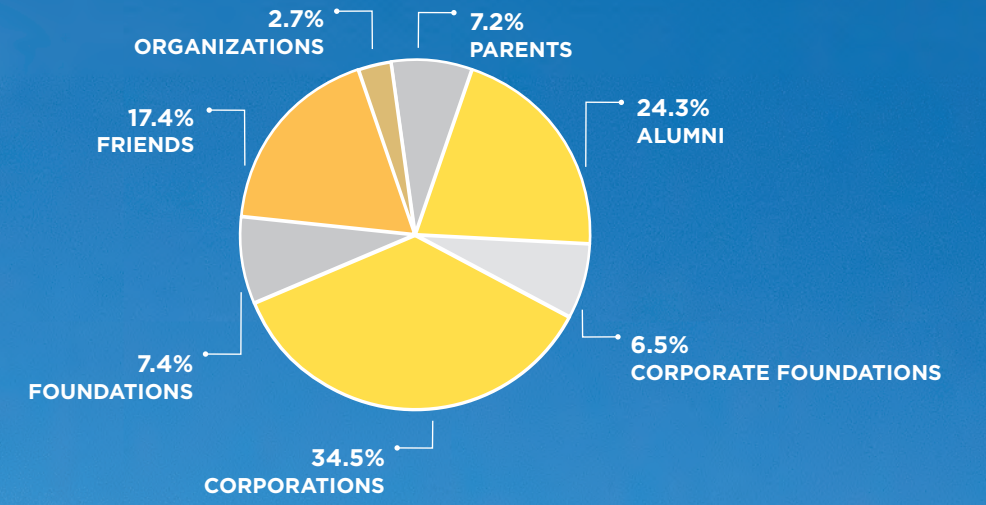


Endowment Market Value



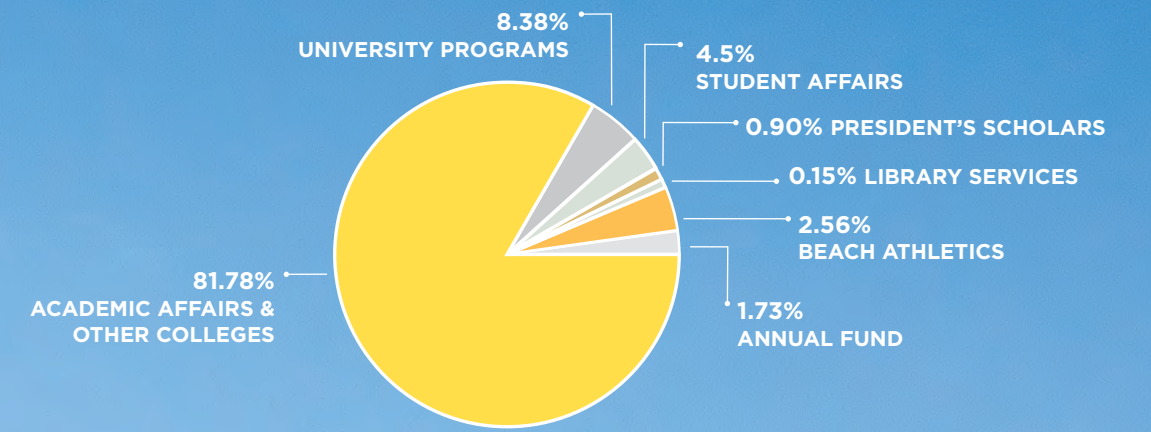
Sources of New Gifts

Fiscal Year 2022-23



Designation of New Gifts

Fiscal Year 2022-23





NO BARRIERS

The Campaign for California State University, Long Beach

csulb.edu

