

# Elahe Amani

Elahe Amani served a member of California State University System in the capacity of administrator and lecturer for 31 years. She started working at CSULB in January of 1988 for the implementation of SIS and continued her journey in the Division of Admin and Finance - Student Financial Services department. Elahe retired with emeritus status as interim Director of Academic Technology of CSU Fullerton in December of 2018.

Elahe served CSULB for 11 years and developed many ties with campus community. During her 11 years, she served as the Chair of Commission on the Status of Women, President of CSULB chapter of California Women in Higher Education, was engaged in the life of campus community, provided many workshop and training to various Student Affairs divisions and received many recognitions for her efforts including but not limited to the following:

- Outstanding Staff Woman - California Women in Higher Education - 1994
- [Outstanding Staff of the Year –CSULB 1998.](#)
- ["It's Not the Years, It's the Milestones"](#), 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Women' Center @ CSULB 2002
- [Lillian Robles Award for Feminist Activism](#) – Women Studies Program, CSULB – 2007

In August of 1999, she accepted a position as Associate Director of Student Financial Services and within a year, became the Director of Student Financial Services at CSU Fullerton. She not only was instrumental in implementation of SISPLUS at CSU Fullerton, but because of her interest to increase the quality of life for students, CSU Fullerton was one of the pioneers among larger campus of CSU to move all student financial services online. Within the first 18 months of her leadership role, many of the services including direct deposit of financial aid checks, billing statements, online payment, installment payment contracts, emergency loans went online. The campaign for online services and the huge Banner of “Don’t wait ***in line, get online,***” drew much attention and headlines. To educate students about financial matters and reduce the unpaid/outstanding balances on student accounts, she embarked on a large-scale study/ research of financial literacy and subsequently wrote a grant proposal and received \$48,000 for the financial literacy of CSU Fullerton students.

She also taught in the Women Studies of CSU Fullerton and developed strong ties with campus community and Women Center and Women Studies Program. In 2006, Elahe accepted a newly established position in the Division of Student Affairs as Director of Technology. In her new position, she again brought many aspects of new and emerging technologies to improve the quality of life for students. CSU Fullerton was one of the campuses that built a platform for all the co-curricular courses and made it possible for students to register online for hundreds of workshops and activities. She was involved in evaluation, assessment of various technology products for student services departments from Health Center, to Disability Support Services, Carrier Center, etc. She was also responsible for the redesign and upgrade of all the website, education and promotion of

social media for Student Affairs departments and all other aspects of technology and served as the point person for all technology needs of Student Affairs. In her capacity, she was very involved nationally on Student Affairs Technology and presented in many conferences including Educause and NASPA.

In 2016, as part of centralization of tech resources in the IT Division of CSU Fullerton, her position moved to the Division of IT with new and additional responsibilities and became Director of Student Technology Services. In her new capacity, not only she had the responsibilities for Student Affairs Technology, she also oversaw the Student Tech Center and Titan Card department in the division of IT. During her services in the Division of IT, she was responsible for the Assessment and systematic collection, review, and use of information undertaken by the Division of IT for the purpose of improving student learning and development. She presented in many Assessment conferences on campus and also CSU wide Assessment conferences. She also did a new assessment of student learning outcomes of more than 120 students assistants working in IT.

Elahe served in many campus community working groups on behalf of the division of IT and presented more than hundreds workshop and conferences on campus.

Elahe also was engaged in Title IX program on campus since the mandate was being formulated on campus and served three year in addition to her role in the Division of IT, as the Deputy coordinator of Title IX on campus and conducted many workshops on campus.

In March of 2018, she accepted an offer to serve as interim Director of Academic Technology Center as part of IT Division and was responsible for strategic leadership and direction of all campus academic technology services. This was an excellent opportunity to work and collaborate with Faculty Development Center, Online Education and Training, Faculty Affairs and Records under the umbrella of Faculty Support Services to meet the technology needs of CSU Fullerton faculties. This position had dual reporting to Academic Division and IT Division.

Beyond CSU, Elahe is passionate about gender equality, diversity and inclusion and has been an active member with UN Commission on the Status of Women and have followed the global women's movement since 1985, the 3<sup>rd</sup> UN Women Conference in Nairobi Kenya. She attended the 4<sup>th</sup> UN Women Conference in 1995 in Beijing China and presented a paper on "Women's Human Rights and Islam." She also attended the post Beijing Conference in Cuba while she was the Chair of the CSULB President's Commission on the Status of Women in 1998 and presented two workshops on violence against women and the status of immigrant women from west and South Asia in United State. She attended Beijing plus 5, Beijing Plus 10 and Beijing plus 15 conferences at the headquarter of UN in NY and has been engaged at various levels with shaping the discourse of women's movement in Muslim majority societies particularly Iran and Afghanistan. As a Board member of Women Intercultural Network (WIN), in 2003, she went to Afghanistan as part of WIN delegation and as a trained mediator, who also speaks Persian, played a pivotal role in bringing majority of the women NGOs in Kabul to the same table so they can build coalition and collaborate in a more effective ways.

Elahe has been attending the UN Commission on the Status of Women every year and since 2011, she has presented a workshop including, but not limited to the WINNING STRATEGIES: TECHNOLOGY TOOLS for NEXT GENERATION ORGANIZING in 2011, for WOMEN'S EQUALITY and in 2012 a workshop on TECHNOLOGY FOR SOCIAL GOOD OF INDIGENOUS WOMEN & WOMEN IN THE GLOBAL SOUTH. In fact, every year, she has invited to speak at panel/s at the NGO events parallel to the CSW in New York. In June 2012, she contributed to the [UN Human Rights Council 20<sup>th</sup> session briefing on Stoning](#).

In March of 2019 she was the keynote speaker of [US Women Caucus at UN](#) which brought many nationwide organizations together to review and provide feedback to the draft "Agreed Conclusion" of the UN Commission on the Status of Women.

Elahe is a peacemaker and trained mediator and part of the first wave of certified mediator in California. She is Faculty- International Training Institute, network development and cross-cultural specialist of [Mediators Beyond Borders](#) (MBB) and the chair of the inaugural Training Institute of MBB for women leaders in the Middle East. She is member of [Southern California Mediation Association](#) and often a presenter at the conferences of SCMA and number of other peace and mediation communities. She has done many presentations on "Gender and Negotiations", "The role of women in peacemaking" and "Conflict Resolution in a Cross Cultural Perspectives". She is also an active member of Strategic partnership of [National Assoc. of Community Mediation](#).

She has served in many leadership roles at local, statewide and global level such as Chair, Women Intercultural Network (WIN), a global organization with consultancy status with UN, Chair, International Interest of American Association University Women (AAUW) in California (135 branches in California), Chair Coalition of Women from Asia and the Middle East (CWAME), a women's human rights organization based in California, Founding member of Iranian Circle of Women's Intercultural Network, Chair President Commission on the Status of Women at California State University Long Beach, global advisory for "Stop Stoning Forever in Iran," Advisory to the Women Center in CSU Long Beach, and other organizations and networks. She has received numerous awards and honors other than the one in CSU including but not limited to the following:

- Women of Distinguished Award - Category of Human Rights – Soroptimist International 2001
- [Leading Change Heroines and Heroes](#) – Women Intercultural Network – 2010
- [A Lifetime of Activism](#) – California State University Fullerton – 2012 (highlighted on the main page of campus for few days)
- Honored as one of the seven Jurors of [World Court of Women](#) in Bangalore, India – 2016
- Honored to be the keynote speaker at the [CSUF Violence Prevention Conference](#).
- City of Long Beach – [Community Leadership Award](#) – March 2017
- Peacebuilder Spotlight – [Mediators Beyond Borders 9/2017](#)
- [Long Beach Area Peace Network](#) – Lifetime Award for Peace and Justice – Dec. 2017
- [Grace Hopper Celebration/ AnitaB.Org](#), Global panel on "Women in Tech at the United Nations" – October – 2019

- Panelist on Pandemic and Violence Against Women –Santa Clara University and East London University – August 2020
- [50/50 Movement](#) – Panelist - CSU San Bernardino – Sept 2020

Currently she is serving in volunteer capacity as Chair of Global Circles for Women's Intercultural Network and on the board of WIN, she is a consultant and senior trainer of Mediators Beyond Borders and support their efforts in providing many trainings to Rotary International and other constituencies on conflict analysis, management, resolution and transformation, facilitation and dialogue. Elahe is a well published writer both in English and Persian on issues related to the intersection of Technology, Human Rights, Status of women in South and West Asia particularly Iran and Afghanistan, violence against women, social justice for women of color in US and peace in public and private, local and global. Her articles are published by Women News Network, Open Democracy, Truthout, Safe World for Women, and many Iranian women / human rights publications including but not limited to Khat Solh (peace Line), Shahrvand, Iran Women Solidarity, Medium and other Iranian feminist / women & human rights publications. Elahe is Emeritus of CSU as Interim Director of Academic Technology. She lives in Long Beach with her husband.