

Grant Final Report Form

Principal Investigators (PIs) are required to submit final reports within **60 days** of their EIA grant end date. A delinquent report may jeopardize or delay future Network funding. The information you provide helps us improve and justify the continuation of this grant program. The Network may also contact PIs for longer-term impact reporting and may request permission to use elements of these reports in Network activities (Conference sessions, Academy sessions, etc.) and communication both within the CSU system and to external stake-holders.

Summary Grant Information	
Grant Title:	The Titan Scholars (TS) Grad Prep for Transfer Students Program
PI Name:	Patricia Literte
PI Campus:	Fullerton
Grant Start Date (month/YYYY):	June 2022
Grant End Date (month/YYYY):	May 2024
Final Report Submission Date:	August 2024

Major Outcomes

1. Summarize your project's outcomes against the original goals proposed for advancing equitable student learning, engagement, progression, and completion.

The Titan Scholars (TS) Grad Prep for Transfer Students Program sought to address equity gaps experienced by community college transfer students at CSUF, particularly those who are first-generation, low-income, underrepresented, and/or caregivers. The project provided services focused on academic development, professional development, advisement, mentorship, social integration, and graduate school preparation.

The project's original goals were as follows:

- At the end of the academic year, at least 50% of Titan Scholar participants will be on track to graduate in two years; the remaining will be on track to graduate in four years or less
- 90% of TS students will exhibit improved (a) academic and study skills; (b) professionalization; (c) graduate school preparedness; (d) confidence in their ability to succeed as students who are caregivers and/or parents

The project achieved these outcomes. At the conclusion of the project over 80% of Titan Scholars were on track to graduate in two years and over 90% exhibited improved (a) academic and study skills; (b) professionalization; (c) graduate school preparedness; (d) confidence in their ability to succeed as students who are caregivers and/or parents.

2. Comment on additional outcomes not directly associated with the project (partnerships formed, additional funding support gained)

The Titan Scholars Program formed partnerships with the CSUF Center for Educational Partnerships, the McNair Scholars Program, and the master's of higher education program. Through the Center for Educational Partnerships and the master's of higher education program, the Titan Scholars Program was able to obtain federal work study employees and an intern to assist with the implementation of the program. This allowed the Titan Scholars Program to dedicate more funding to programming for Titan Scholars. The Center for Educational Partnerships also provided some meals/refreshments for students, office supplies, materials, copying, and computers to Titan Scholars staff to utilize for implementation of the program. Furthermore, the Center for Educational Partnerships provided travel funding for Titan Scholars to participate in graduate school visitations to UC San Diego, USC, and UCLA, organized by the McNair Scholars Program.

3. Specify any unanticipated project developments (i.e. unanticipated barriers or unexpected wins)

One unanticipated project development was difficulty securing student participants who were caregivers. Originally, the project aimed to serve a substantive number of students who are caregivers (50% of participants). Ultimately, the project had difficulty recruiting student caregivers, and this may be attributable to the time constraints and financial demands placed on student caregivers, which make it difficult for them to participate in on-campus programming/services.

An unexpected win was securing federal work study employees and a master's in higher education intern, as described in the answer to (3) above.

4. If applicable comment on any longer-term outcomes, you anticipate from your Equity in Action Grant funded project. Also, please estimate anticipated achievement dates (month and year.)

I anticipate that the Center for Educational Partnerships will take on and absorb the Titan Scholars Program sometime in the upcoming academic school year (2024-25). I have been in dialogue with the Director of the Center for Educational Partnerships about this process. While the new iteration of the Titan Scholars Program may not focus on graduate school preparation, or the original target populations, it will retain its focus on community college transfer students.

Assessment and Communication

5. Describe efforts to communicate and disseminate project outcomes with your campus.

Ongoing project activities and accomplishments were reported on a monthly basis to the Office of the Vice President of the Division of Student Affairs. The Titan Scholars Program was also frequently profiled by the CSUF News. Most recently, a graduating 2024 Titan Scholar Program participant was featured by CSUF News: <https://news.fullerton.edu/2024/04/psychology-scholar-discovers-passion-for-mental-health-research-10000-miles-from-home/>

6. Provide a summary of your assessment activities and results, where available.

Formative assessment was conducted by soliciting feedback and evaluations from student participants after project activities (i.e., workshops, graduate school visitations, etc.). This feedback was overwhelmingly positive. In particular, students expressed that graduate school preparatory services were beneficial and that they never would have had the opportunity to visit institutions such as UC San Diego, UCLA, and USC without the assistance of the Titan Scholars Program. They also expressed that they learned a great deal about the admissions process, such as writing statements of purpose/personal statements and securing letters of recommendation, from program workshops.

A longer-term summative assessment of the program, which entails data from in-depth interviews with student participants, is still being conducted and results are not yet available.

Lesson Learned

7. As you reflect on the strategies and activities implemented during this grant, which were successful?

One of the strategies which was most successful during the implementation of this grant was collaborating with the CSUF Center for Educational Partnerships, the McNair Scholars Program, and the master's of higher education program. These collaborations allowed for the Titan Scholars Program to dedicate the majority of its grant funds to direct student aid in the form of stipends and provide more workshops/activities. The program was also able to provide more supplies and materials to student participants, such as planners.

One of the activities which was most successful during the implementation of this grant was graduate school visitations. The costs associated with these visitations were covered by the Center for Educational Partnerships. Student participants found these visitations to be very impactful and key to their preparation for graduate school.

8. By comparison, what strategies did you find were unsuccessful?

One of the strategies which was least successful during the implementation of this grant was outreach to caregiving students, an original target population. The project was not able to recruit the desired number of caregiving students. This may have been attributable to the time constraints and financial demands placed on student caregivers, which make it difficult for them to participate in on-campus programming/services. Another factor that may have played a role is that the marketing of the program did not emphasize this target population as much as needed.

9. Given your experience with the Equity in Action Grant Program, what changes would you recommend to better support you toward your goals?

I would recommend that the EIA Program be promoted more extensively to campus leadership to encourage investment in funded projects.

10. What can the CSU Student Success Network do to help our campus in its efforts to identify, understand and disrupt inequities in our system?

The CSU Student Success Network can continue to fund innovative and data driven/informed student programming and initiatives.