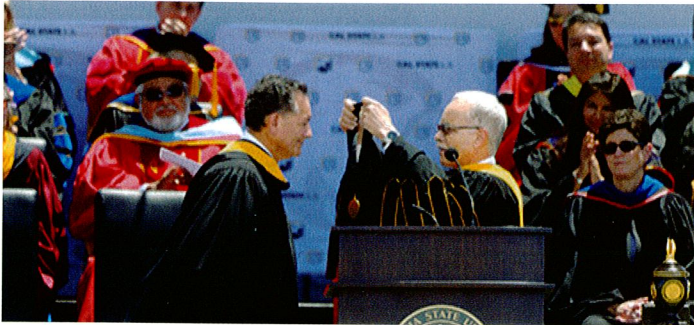


Cal State University, Los Angeles features alumnus at commencement



California State University, Los Angeles (CSULA) 2017 commencement ceremonies took place May 20 to 22, with nine ceremonies where degrees were conferred. CSULA alumnus George L. Pla, president, CEO and founder of Cordoba Corporation was awarded a CSULA Presidential Medallion during commencement.

Thomas A. Saenz, president and general counsel for Mexican American Legal Defense Fund (MALDEF), received an honorary doctorate during the May 20 ceremony for the College of Natural and Social Sciences. Feliza I. Ortiz-Licon addressed the Charter College of Education on May 22. Ortiz-Licon currently serves as the senior director of K-16 Education at the National Council of La Raza (NCLR). Luis Patiño addressed the College of Business and Economics on May 22. Patiño is senior vice president and general manager of Univision Local Media in Los Angeles, at Univision Communications Inc.

Three alums address students at CSUN's commencement ceremonies



California State University, Northridge's (CSUN) May 13 Honors Convocation speaker was alumnus and award-winning journalist Julio César Ortiz for Univision's Channel 34 in Los Angeles and an adjunct professor in CSUN's Department of Journalism. Financial journalist and CSUN alumnus Bill Griffeth ('80) addressed the graduates of the Mike Curb College of Arts, Media, and Communication on May 19 and received an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters. Griffeth is anchor of the financial news show "Closing Bell" on CNBC. Substance abuse educator and CSUN alumnus Mike Watanabe spoke to graduates of the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences on May 21, and received an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters. Watanabe is president and CEO of Asian American Drug Abuse Program.

The University of California, Merced holds 12th commencement ceremonies



More than 1,200 undergraduate and graduate students participated in the University of California, Merced's 12th commencement ceremonies, bringing the university's alumni total to nearly 8,000. Speakers at the commencement included:

HP Inc. Chief Diversity Officer Lesley Slaton Brown, who spoke to the School of Engineering and School of Natural Sciences on May 13.

Slaton Brown, who leads HP's global diversity and inclusion strategy, programs, partnerships, reporting and operations.

Award-winning journalist and author Héctor Tobar, part of the Los Angeles Times reporting team that earned a Pulitzer Prize for coverage of the 1992 Los Angeles riots, addressed the School of Social Sciences, Humanities and Arts on May 14.

SDSU commencement features three alumni speakers



More than 10,000 San Diego State University (SDSU) students participated in the university's commencement ceremonies in seven separate ceremonies from May 12-14 and one ceremony on May 11.

Andrea Skorepa ('71) spoke to the College of Arts and Letters on May 12. Skorepa has served families in San Ysidro and the South Bay for 36 years as president and CEO of Casa Familiar. Harold Brown ('59) addressed the Fowler College of Business commencement ceremony on May 13. Brown, the first African-American administrator at SDSU, created a certificate program in community economic development within the Fowler College of Business, which later became the Center for Community Economic Development. Jack McGrory ('76) spoke to the College of Professional Studies and Fine Arts commencement ceremony on May 14. As city manager, McGrory encouraged public-private partnerships, such as the development of Petco Park, linked to the redevelopment of East Village.