

**CSU**

**The California State University**

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THE WANG FAMILY  
EXCELLENCE  AWARD  
2016

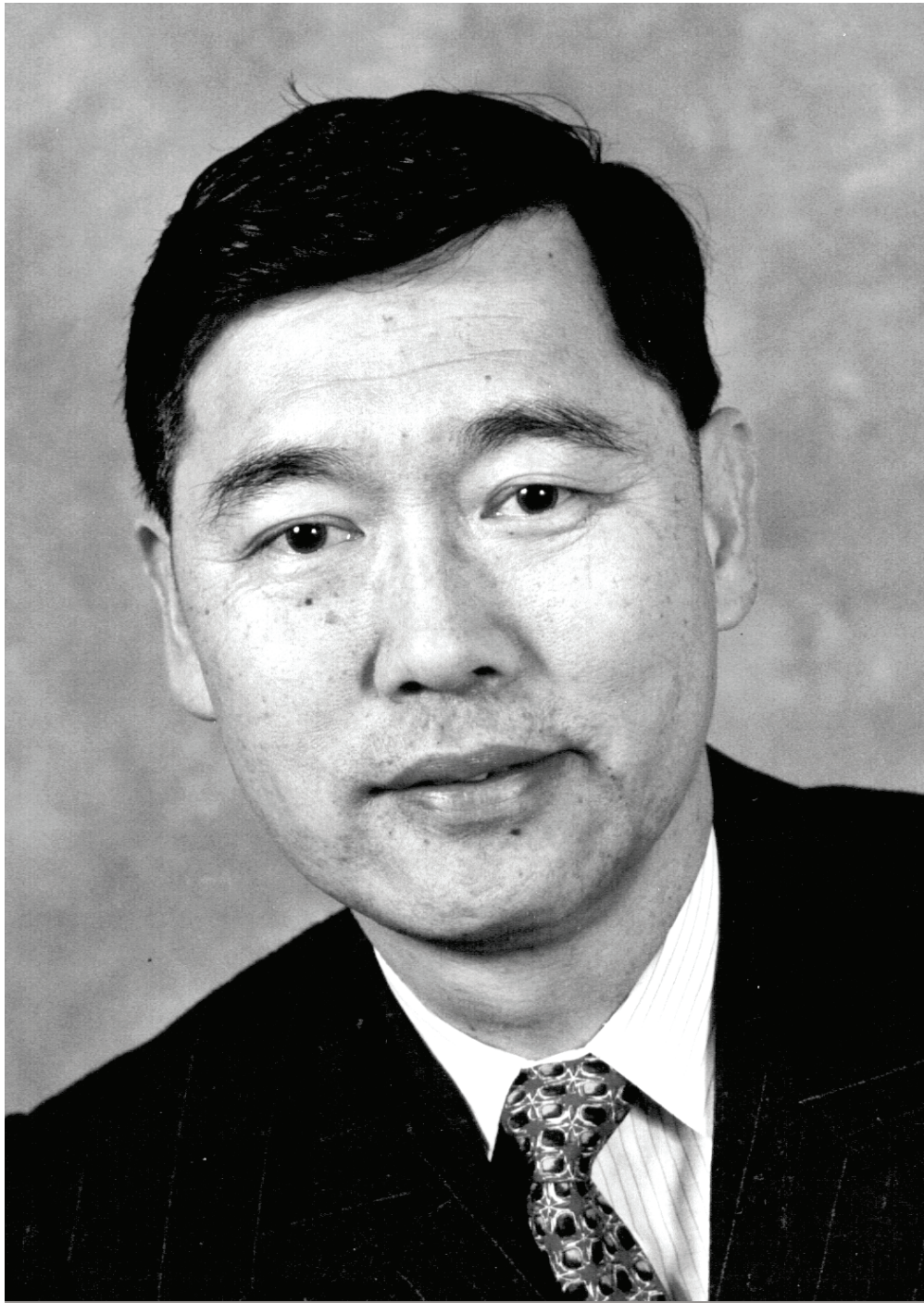
“ We are absolutely thrilled to recognize our very best faculty members and administrators through the generous gift provided by Stanley Wang and his family. These award recipients are truly remarkable and are making extraordinary efforts to serve students and the global learning community. ”

Timothy P. White  
Chancellor, California State University

## THE WANG FAMILY EXCELLENCE AWARD 2016

The Wang Family Excellence Award recognizes four outstanding faculty members and one outstanding staff member who, through extraordinary commitment and dedication, have distinguished themselves by exemplary contributions and achievements. Their activities advance the California State University's mission, bring benefit and credit to the CSU, and enhance the CSU's excellence in teaching, scholarship and service. Each recipient is given a \$20,000 award.

The Wang Family Excellence Award was originally established in 1998 when then-CSU Trustee Stanley Wang provided \$1 million to recognize the remarkable contributions of the CSU's faculty and administrators over a 10-year period. Trustee Emeritus Wang has generously agreed to reinstate the award with a \$300,000 gift that will provide a \$20,000 award to each of four faculty members and one staff member annually for three years, beginning in 2015.



STANLEY WANG

Stanley Wang is the founder, president and CEO of Pantronix Corporation, a high technology company in Silicon Valley. Established in 1974, the company serves the medical, aerospace, semiconductor, defense, energy and telecommunication industries.

Since 1989, Stanley has founded two factories in the Philippines and another in KunShan, China, specializing in volume technology services for the medical, computer, fiber optic, photonic and telecommunication fields.

Stanley has been involved in the founding and management of numerous organizations including Monte Jade Science and Technology Association, CIE, CASPA and AAMA. Monte Jade supports the exchange of technology, information and investment between Asia and the United States. Stanley is also a member of the prestigious Committee of 100 whose membership includes Yo Yo Ma and I.M. Pei.

Education is a top priority for Stanley. In 1994, he was appointed by then Gov. Pete Wilson to the California State University (CSU) Board of Trustees. During his tenure, Stanley established the Wang Family Excellence Award recognizing outstanding faculty and administrators at the CSU. He has also created a fund forging academic links for student and faculty overseas study between the CSU and universities in Taiwan and China. In 2008, Stanley established the Wang Family Professorship in the College of Business and Economics at CSU East Bay. He also created a program for government officials from China to attend the CSU and take courses in public administration. Temple University's Fox School of Business is home to the Stanley Wang MBA Center named in his honor in 2009.

Stanley is the recipient of numerous awards including the Lifetime Achievement Award from Global Monte Jade Technology Association, CSU Trustee of the Year from the California State Student Association, and the Community Service Award from the International Leadership Foundation.

In 2008, Stanley supported the creation of the Asia Business Center Leadership Scholars Program at UC Berkeley, an executive training program for academic, business and government leaders from Asia. Stanley is also involved in business/economics programs at the Stanford Center for International Development.

Stanley's philanthropic involvement includes financing the building of schools and scholarship programs in rural areas of China; the creation of a Buddhist temple in San José, Ca.; the formation of a scholarship fund through Palpung Lungtok Choeling for financially challenged students entering a university; and numerous contributions to homeless and charity programs.

Stanley holds a bachelor's degree in business/management from National Taiwan University, an MBA from Temple University, and an honorary doctorate from the California State University.



MS. KRISTINE DIEKMAN

**CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY SAN MARCOS**  
Professor, Arts and Technology  
Director of Video in the Community

Ms. Kristine Diekman, Professor of Arts and Technology in the School of Art, joined California State University San Marcos in 1997. She also serves as Director of Video in the Community, and previously served as Program Director, Arts and Technology, and Chair, Visual and Performing Arts Department. Professor Diekman earned her MFA from the Rhode Island School of Design and her Bachelor of Special Studies from Cornell College.

A media artist and leader of collaborative vision and social change, Professor Diekman has more than 30 years of experience producing, directing and editing award-winning films and videos. In 2007, she founded Video in the Community to engage students, faculty and the community in the collaborative process of creating media for social change. Through Video in the Community, she, along with students and community partners, completed more than 50 films and videos that serve non-profit organizations. In addition, her experimental media art has screened internationally and won awards from California Council on the Arts, the Paul Robeson Foundation, New York State Council on the Arts and others.

In 2016, Professor Diekman and her colleague were awarded a W.M. Keck Foundation Undergraduate Education Program grant of \$250,000 for the creation of the American Indian Digital Media and Culture Project, which incorporates American Indian epistemology in digital media projects that serve Southern California tribes and university students.

For 2015-16, she also received a California Humanities Community Stories grant and a CSU Water Resources and Policy Initiative grant for her project, *Run Dry*. *Run Dry* will bring together films, photos and text as an eBook depicting the stories of families living in the Central Valley without water and contextualizes them within themes of poverty, equity, migration and water rights.

“ The films that I make with students, other artists and community members are tools that advance our community’s self-sufficiency. They are a call to action, a re-imagining of social connections, and a means to create social change. Video in the Community is about listening to and supporting unheard voices, providing a place from which they can speak and be heard. ”



DR. LYNN R. COMINSKY

**SONOMA STATE UNIVERSITY**

Professor and Chair, Department of Physics and Astronomy

Dr. Lynn R. Cominsky, Professor and Chair of the Department of Physics and Astronomy, joined the faculty at Sonoma State University in 1986 and became chair of the Physics and Astronomy Department in 2004. She also founded Sonoma State's Education and Public Outreach group in 1999. Previously, she worked with the University of California, Berkeley Space Sciences Laboratory and NASA's Extreme Ultraviolet Explorer Satellite Project. Dr. Cominsky earned her PhD from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and her BA from Brandeis University.

As the director of the Education and Public Outreach group, Dr. Cominsky's mission is to develop exciting educational materials that inspire students in grades five through 14 to pursue STEM careers, to train teachers nationwide in the use of these materials, and to enhance science literacy for the general public.

Dr. Cominsky serves as a scientific co-investigator on three NASA high-energy astrophysics missions: Swift, Fermi and NuSTAR. In leading the education and public outreach programs for these missions, she has developed curriculum used by tens of thousands of students nationwide and has helped train master educators that have infused NASA science into the classrooms of more than 65,000 teachers. She also served as science director for the PBS NOVA show, *Monster of the Milky Way*, and the planetarium show, *Black Holes: the Other Side of Infinity*, which reached millions of viewers worldwide.

More recently, Dr. Cominsky led the effort to redesign the college curriculum for astronomy by producing "Big Ideas in Cosmology", a digital-first, media-rich learning approach. Her "Learning by Making" high school curriculum is also now being used as a pilot project in six high-needs rural schools in Mendocino County.

“ My entire career has been dedicated to transforming STEM education to engage students of all ages, from ‘K through gray.’ I am especially passionate about providing opportunities for female and underrepresented minority students to ‘learn by making’ through hands-on activities that include computer programming and electronics. These skills are badly needed for the U.S. to stay economically competitive, and they are some of the most challenging to teach and to learn. ”



DR. NANCY L. SEGAL

**CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, FULLERTON**

Professor of Psychology

Director, Twin Studies Center

Dr. Nancy L. Segal has been a professor in the Department of Psychology at California State University, Fullerton since 1991. Upon her arrival, she founded the Twin Studies Center with the dual mission of fostering twin research by faculty and students, and providing information and support to interested individuals. Dr. Segal earned her PhD and MA from the University of Chicago and her BA from Boston University.

As a Professor of Developmental Psychology, Dr. Segal's interests lie at the juncture of genetics, evolutionary psychology and twin studies. In addition to lecturing, mentoring, publishing and presenting, she uses her research to inform twin-based legal cases, to provide input to the media, and to assist authors and artists in creative endeavors.

Dr. Segal was awarded the 2013 William James Book Award for her work, *Born Together—Reared Apart: The Landmark Minnesota Twin Study*, which summarized the origins, methods, findings and controversies of a pivotal project on separated twins. She also set a new Guinness World Record for reuniting twins who had been apart for 78 years. Most recently, her participation as a researcher and interviewee in the 2015 film, *Twinsters*, helped shape the documentary into a highly informative memoir of reunited twin sisters.

“ I am captivated by the simplicity and profundity of twin research. Just by acting naturally, identical and fraternal twins are living laboratories, revealing so much about genetic and environmental influences on behavior. My best days are those when twins are scheduled to visit my laboratory, each pair a unique take on complex human developmental questions. ”



## DR. KAMAL HAMDAN

### **CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, DOMINGUEZ HILLS**

Annenberg Endowed Professor and Director,  
Center for Innovation in STEM Education

Director, California STEM Institute for Innovation  
and Improvement

Dr. Kamal Hamdan joined California State University, Dominguez Hills in 2000 as a full-time lecturer in the College of Education. He has been serving as the Principal Investigator and Director for multiple grants-funded projects for 11 years, the director of the California STEM Institute for Innovation and Improvement (CSI<sup>3</sup>) for three years, and the Annenberg Endowed Professor and Director of the Center for Innovation in STEM Education (CISE) for one year. Dr. Hamdan earned his EdD from the University of Southern California, his MA and Teaching Credential from CSU Dominguez Hills, and his BS from San Diego State University.

As director, Dr. Hamdan oversees CISE, CSI<sup>3</sup> and other projects including the Transition to Teaching Program, Math and Science Teacher Initiative, Noyce Scholars Program, Urban Teacher Residency and Master Teacher Fellows. Through these projects, Dr. Hamdan has developed multiple pathways for students that extend from high school to graduate school and lead to teacher certification.

Dr. Hamdan has been instrumental in securing grants exceeding \$47 million to develop much needed teaching staff in high-need schools in urban and rural areas. He has helped CSUDH prepare more math and science teachers in a span of six years than any other CSU campus and has helped prepare exceptional teachers who are transforming the lives of inner city students. Through his work, he is redefining the clinical experiences for aspiring teachers and offering them, K-12 students, parents and the community authentic science, technology, engineering and mathematics experiences.

“ It is a privilege to be in a position to help others achieve their dreams. I am inspired by the spirit of the children we educate, the passion of the teachers we prepare, and the resiliency of the community we serve. I am living my dream. ”



MS. DEBRA L. HAMMOND

**CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, NORTHRIDGE**  
Executive Director, University Student Union

Ms. Debra L. Hammond has been serving as Executive Director of the University Student Union at California State University, Northridge for 22 years and was the Interim Assistant Vice President, Student Life in 2010-11. Previously, she was the Director for the University Student Union at CSU Los Angeles and the Assistant Dean of Students/Director of the Campus Center Cook College at Rutgers University. Ms. Hammond earned her MA from CSU Los Angeles and her BA from Rutgers University, New Brunswick.

As Executive Director of the University Student Union, Ms. Hammond manages the strategic direction and vision for the \$14.3 million non-profit corporation, and serves as executive secretary of the Board of Directors. She supports student development by providing inclusive activities, meaningful employment opportunities, leadership experiences and innovative technologies, facilities and services. Ms. Hammond also serves as a part-time faculty member in the Michael D. Eisner College of Education, teaching in the student services and college counseling program.

Under her leadership, the University Student Union serves more than 4,300 members daily and has opened the Student Recreation Center, the Pride Center, the Veterans Resource Center and the Oasis Wellness Center to meet the needs of important university communities. The Student Recreation Center has won 11 architectural awards including the 2012 Jolene Koester Team Award for Excellence at CSUN's annual recognition event.

“ Your work is to discover your work and then with all your heart to give yourself to it. – Buddha ”



# THE WANG FAMILY EXCELLENCE AWARD 2016

## 2016 NOMINEES

### EDUCATION, AND PROFESSIONAL AND APPLIED SCIENCES

Dr. Elva Arredondo, San Diego  
Dr. Hossein Bidgoli, Bakersfield  
Dr. Justus D. Ortega, Humboldt  
Dr. Kamal Hamdan, Dominguez Hills  
Dr. Timothy Heinze, Chico  
Mr. Martin Linder, San Francisco  
Dr. Nancy Mangold, East Bay  
Dr. Lettie Ramirez, East Bay  
Dr. Anil Shrestha, Fresno  
Dr. Kristen Walker, Northridge  
Dr. Ruth Yopp-Edwards, Fullerton  
Dr. Walter Zelman, Los Angeles

### VISUAL AND PERFORMING ARTS AND LETTERS

Dr. Mark Balaguer, Los Angeles  
Mr. Cliff Cramp, Fullerton  
Ms. Kristine Diekman, San Marcos  
Dr. Kim Flachmann, Bakersfield  
Mr. Fermin Herrera, Northridge  
Dr. Iris Levine, Pomona  
Dr. Aaron Lington, San José  
Dr. Thomas Loewenheim, Fresno  
Dr. Jesse Wolfe, Stanislaus  
Ms. Laurel Zucker, Sacramento

### STAFF

Dr. Cesar Caballero, San Bernardino  
Dr. David Dowell, Long Beach  
Ms. Debra Hammond, Northridge  
Ms. Michelle Rashleger, San Francisco  
Ms. Jennifer Sclafani, San José

### SOCIAL AND BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES AND PUBLIC SERVICE

Dr. San Bolkan, Long Beach  
Dr. Gilbert Cadena, Pomona  
Dr. Jonathan Caudill, Chico  
Dr. Terry Cronan, San Diego  
Dr. Timothy Fong, Sacramento  
Dr. Enrique Ochoa, Los Angeles  
Dr. Paul Ogden, Fresno  
Dr. Mary Pickering, San José  
Dr. Nancy Segal, Fullerton  
Dr. Keith Trujillo, San Marcos  
Dr. Ivor Weiner, Northridge  
Dr. Darlene Yee-Melichar, San Francisco

### NATURAL SCIENCES, MATHEMATICAL AND COMPUTER SCIENCES

Dr. Dingxin Cheng, Chico  
Dr. Lynn Cominsky, Sonoma  
Dr. Sepehr Eskandari, Pomona  
Dr. Yongsheng Gao, Fresno  
Dr. Alejandro Garcia, San José  
Dr. Derek Jackson Kimball, East Bay  
Dr. Nicholas Kioussis, Northridge  
Dr. Stephen Mezyk, Long Beach  
Dr. Robert Negrini, Bakersfield  
Dr. Eugene Olevsky, San Diego  
Dr. Jordi Puig-Suari, San Luis Obispo  
Dr. Warren Smith, Sacramento  
Dr. Binod Tiwari, Fullerton  
Dr. Nancy Warter-Perez, Los Angeles  
Dr. Cynthia Wyels, Channel Islands

