



CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, SAN BERNARDINO
Office of the President

PRESIDENT'S REPORT
ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL
THURSDAY – OCTOBER 24, 2024

We begin this busy fall semester in a time of uncertainty with ongoing concerns about university funding, a contentious U.S. presidential election, destructive fires and storms, and continuing global conflict. I therefore want to take this opportunity to reiterate that CSUSB remains committed to the values of diversity, equity and inclusion; that hate, including antisemitism and xenophobia, are not welcome on our campus; and that we completely reject any arguments that women are second class citizens in our nation.

- **Budget Update:** CSUSB held a Budget Open Forum earlier today, Thursday, October 24, to share updates on the current situation with the CSU budget and its impact on CSUSB's funding.
- **Capital Campaign Update:** I am pleased to report today that we currently stand at **\$219 Million total:** \$168 Million in Sponsored Research and \$51 Million in Philanthropic Support. As you can see, we need to continue our goal of \$70 Million in philanthropic support for student scholarship, and faculty and staff development.
- **Seal of *Excelencia*:** CSUSB has earned the prestigious Seal of *Excelencia* certification for 2024-27 from *Excelencia* in Education for demonstrating through data, evidence-based practices and leadership the ways in which it is intentionally serving Latino students. CSUSB is one of only 46 institutions who have been certified and/or re-certified with the Seal. Additionally, for the past five years, CSUSB has been [consistently recognized](#) as a top institution for Latino student success by *Excelencia* and, in August, two of its [pre-college initiatives](#) were recognized as among the best in the US for students aspiring to attend college. *Excelencia* in Education is the nation's premier authority on efforts to accelerate Latino student success in higher education.
- **CSUSB Wall Street Journal Rankings:** CSUSB has been ranked at no. 3 for social mobility in the US by America's Best Colleges rankings (The Wall Street Journal, College Pulse and Statista). Additionally, CSUSB was one of 25 new institutions to the 500 Best Colleges rankings, coming in at no. 46. It was listed as no. 27 in the student experience category, no. 34 in best values and at no. 107 in best salaries.

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- **Quarterly Grants and Contracts Report:** I am proud to be able to share with you the final report on our grants and contracts efforts for the 2023-24 academic year: Total dollars from successful grants in AY2023-24 were \$42,807,371 from 164 grants awarded. Total submissions were in the amount of \$99,297,443 from 141 grant applications.

My congratulations to our faculty for their outstanding research work, along with my appreciation for the Office of Academic Research (OAR), the Office of Research Development, the Office of Research and Sponsored Programs and the Office of Sponsored Programs Administration. My additional thanks, for her interim leadership, to Cynthia Crawford, current faculty fellow and former interim associate provost for academic research, and to Tim Akers, associate provost for academic research.

- **DEI Faculty Fellows for 2024-25:** Seven Cal State San Bernardino faculty members have been named to the [second cohort of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion \(DEI\) Faculty Fellows for 2024-25](#). They include:
 - **Nancy Acevedo, Ph.D.** - professor of educational leadership doctoral studies and co-director of development for women of color in academia;
 - **Brittany Bloodhart, Ph.D.** – associate professor of psychology;
 - **Jane Chin Davidson, Ph.D.** - professor of art history / global cultures;
 - **Marc Fudge, Ph.D.** – professor of public administration;
 - **Donna Garcia, Ph.D.** – professor of psychology;
 - **Andre Harrington, M.F.A.** – professor of design in theatre arts;
 - **Angie Otiniano Verissimo, Ph.D.** - associate professor of health science and human ecology;

As part of the university's DEI efforts, the HR department has launched the Civility Campaign, modeled after the 1M Civil Conversations in the Workplace Campaign created by the Society for Human Resource Management. Increasing awareness through engagement and education about the importance of civility, respect and inclusiveness in the workplace is the program's aim. Two current CiviliTEA Cafe offerings include sessions on "Facilitating Civil Conversations" and "Pronouns and Preferred Names." The website also provides a diversity glossary and free access to a virtual two-hour Academic Impressions Workshop: "Get Comfortable Being Uncomfortable: Engaging in Dialogue About Freedom, Favoritism, and Fairness."

- **National Cybersecurity Education Colloquium and the National Centers of Academic Excellence in Cybersecurity:** At the recent National Cybersecurity Education Colloquium in St. Louis, Cal State San Bernardino was firmly in place as a national leader in cybersecurity. Designated as a CAE-Cyber Defense, the university leads the CAEC as the Community National Center. This means that CSUSB is leading an organization of approximately 500 colleges and universities in this vital field. My congratulations to Tony Coulson, executive director of the Center for Cyber and AI, for the outstanding success of the center and its national leading role.

- **Palm Desert Campus Updates:**
 - Hospitality Management:
 - Hospitality management students from both the San Bernardino and Palm Desert campuses participated in a short-term study abroad trip to Italy between March 31 and April 7. The trip was designed to provide students with firsthand exposure to the vibrant hospitality industry and rich cultural heritage of Italy. Hospitality management program director Joseph Tormey and faculty member Michelle Russen led the trip. NBC Palm Springs prepared [a short video](#) chronicling the trip.
 - Hospitality management students' annual gala project—to assist in planning a large-scale event that also generates financial support for their education, study abroad opportunities and the marketing of the program—took place on April 27 at the Renaissance Esmeralda Resort & Spa Indian Wells. This year's gala was themed "Spirit of Polynesia" and showcased program developments, introduced students in the program and recognized sponsors and donors.
 - Six hospitality management students each received a \$5,000 scholarship from the Greater Palm Springs Tourism Foundation this fall.
 - Hospitality management students participated in a four-day golf academy, hosted by the Desert Willow Golf Resort in Palm Desert. The focus was on careers in club management. They received a certificate upon completion.
 - Kinesiology students and faculty assisted the [Coachella Valley Firebirds](#) strength and conditioning coach, Brandon Wickett, and staff with pre-season fitness testing. Faculty and students were on hand to assist with collecting data for power, strength, agility and body composition prior to the start of the season.
 - The recipients of the prestigious Rogers Scholars awards for the 2024-25 academic year have been announced and formally recognized. Each year, the recipients of the scholarship are honored at a special reception; this year's event took place on October 1. Since its establishment, the Rogers Scholarship has awarded over \$2 million to students at the PDC.
 - Three members of the PDC participated in the Palm Desert Civic Academy, where they received an insider's view of the city and its functions. They include: Dr. Avi Rodriguez - executive director, student engagement and completion; John Harrell - lead information technology consultant; and student Jennifer Rhodes - Major: Administration, management concentration.
 - PDC student Juan Sibrian has been named the recipient of a CSU Trustees' Award for Outstanding Achievement, the CSU's highest recognition of student success, for 2024-25. He, along with other CSU scholarship recipients, was honored at the September Board of Trustees meeting.

- PDC student Diego Rendon attended the Hispanic Educational Technology Services Conference in San Juan, Puerto Rico, where he had the opportunity to connect with students from across the country, as well as Colombia.
 - PDC student outreach events this fall include (but are not limited to) “Coachella Valley Goes to College” on October 11 and the upcoming Preview Day on November 9.
 - PDC broadcast consultant and lecturer Lacey Kendall served as host for the "Toward a Shared Vision 2024 Summit" on October 8-9 at the Riverside Convention Center. Speakers at the event included Sonya Christian, chancellor of California Community Colleges; Tony Thurmond, superintendent of public instruction, State of California; and Summer Steele, executive director of the CSUSB Office of Pre-College Programs.
- **On-Campus Events:**
 - Pow Wow: The annual San Manuel Band of Mission Indians Pow Wow took place on the San Bernardino Campus from September 20 through 22. Traditional bird singers and dancers, drum singing groups and vendors selling handmade crafts and Native American dishes comprised the sharing of traditions and spirituality across the event.
 - LEAD 2023: This year’s 13th LEAD Summit took place on September 27, with the theme: *“El Plan de San Bernardino: Transnationalism, Academic Mobility, and the Reframing of Education.”*
 - Banned Books Week: CSUSB observed “Banned Books Week” this year from September 22-28. [The American Library Association’s Office for Intellectual Freedom](#) reported that 414 attempts were made to censor library materials and services between January 1 and August 31, 2024.
 - RAFFMA Exhibit: RAFFMA’s fall special exhibit, running from September 1 – December 7, is “Korean Craft: Yesterday and Today.” A joint event with the Korean Cultural Center of Los Angeles, the exhibit is curated by Hyeran Jung (Ph.D.) and Hyekyung Park from Sookmyung Women’s University in Seoul, South Korea, and features examples of the Korean craft tradition from the 16th century to the present day.
 - Hispanic Heritage Month: CSUSB celebrated this annual event from September 15 – October 15.
 - National LGBTQ+ History Month: CSUSB is celebrating this annual recognition throughout the month of October.
 - Homecoming: Homecoming Week this year is October 21-26, with the Homecoming Bash taking place on Saturday, the 26th, from 4-7 pm in the Coyote Dining Quad on the San Bernardino Campus.