



CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, SAN BERNARDINO
Office of the President

*PRESIDENT'S REPORT
ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL
THURSDAY, MAY 16, 2024*

I am happy to report to the Administrative Council that CSUSB is successfully wrapping up its academic year and is ready to head into its exciting spring 2024 Commencement weekend.

- **Spring Commencement Schedule:** Spring Commencement will be in-person on May 17-18, 2024, at the Toyota Arena in Ontario. Graduates from both the San Bernardino and Palm Desert campuses will be recognized. The schedule is as follows:
 - Friday, May 17 @ 1:30PM and 6PM: College of Social and Behavioral Sciences
 - Saturday, May 18 @ 9AM: College of Natural Sciences
 - Saturday, May 18 @ 1:30PM: College of Arts and Letters and James R. Watson and Judy Rodriguez Watson College of Education
 - Saturday, May 18 @ 6PM: Jack H. Brown College of Business and Public Administration
- **Annual Faculty “Surprises”:** The spring semester is the time of year when we present our faculty members with campus-wide awards, as selected by a committee of their peers:
 - Outstanding Research and Creative Activity, April 23rd: Qingquan Sun (computer science and engineering)
 - Outstanding Lecturer, April 29th: Matthew Habich (management)
 - Outstanding Professor, April 30th: Gisela Bichler (criminal justice)
 - Outstanding Faculty Advisor, May 1st: Julie Taylor (communication and media).
 - Golden Apple, May 8th: Manijeh Badiee (psychology)

These faculty awards are a wonderful CSUSB tradition and are the highest honors bestowed on our faculty here at Cal State San Bernardino. My congratulations to all this year’s awardees, along with my appreciation for their outstanding work in support of our students as well as their commitment to excellence in scholarship, teaching and the pursuit of knowledge. My appreciation as well to the awards committees for their efforts and discernment over this past academic year.

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- **Presidential Updates:**
 - CSUSB Men's Basketball: Let's give a shout-out to the Coyotes as they advanced to the Final Four on Tuesday, March 26, 2024. Unfortunately, they fell to Nova Southeastern in the semis on the 28th. My congratulations to this year's team and to their coaches: Head Coach Gus Argenal and Assistant Coaches Tim Bross, Markus Black and Micah Dykes.
 - Native American / Indigenous Education Summit: I was pleased to be able to welcome Tribal leaders and VIPs to campus for this March educational summit. The Native American community is not only one of the regional communities which we serve, but our continued commitment to ensuring that CSUSB remains in line with the requirements of CalNAGPRA remains a priority. Earlier in March, CSUSB also hosted leaders of the Torres Martinez Tribal Band to discuss CalNAGPRA issues and our university.
 - Choose CSUSB Day: The event was held on Saturday, April 13, 2024, for admitted students and their parents to encourage them to select CSUSB as their university and enroll for the upcoming fall semester. I was pleased to be able to deliver the closing remarks to wrap up the day. My thanks to: Jonathan Gonzalez-Montelongo, Senior Coordinator of Outreach Events and Visitor Services; Wendy Padron-Garcia, Outreach Events Coordinator; Enrollment Management, specifically the Office of Outreach and Student Recruitment; as well as the entire campus community.
CSUSB needs to become more proactive to better address the trend of declining enrollment and increased competition for the potential student population in our region, and this event was a terrific outreach and enrollment driver. In other words, we have to be intentional about the recruitment, retention and overall success of our students. I want to again thank all the faculty, staff and students who participated in Choose CSUSB Day.
 - CalNAGPRA Event: The campus hosted a two-day workshop over Wednesday and Thursday, April 24-25, 2024, to move forward on the CSU's efforts regarding our compliance with the [Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act](#) or NAGPRA and the [California Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act](#) or CalNAGPRA. CSUSB has taken a proactive stance regarding the handling and ownership of First People's cultural items (we do not hold any human remains). Additionally, as the CSU Presidential Advisor to the Chancellor and Board of Trustees for Native American Initiatives, my role is to further facilitate these actions on behalf of the entire 23-campus system.
- ***Our Defining Moment Blended Campaign Update***: I am pleased to report that we stand at approximately **\$215 Million** as of 4/25/24.
- **College Corps**: Cal State San Bernardino's College Corps initiative, located in the university's Office of Pre-College Programs, received confirmation this spring that they have been selected as a 2024-26 College Corps campus. The new round of funding is nearly \$2.5 million, which equals 150 more Fellows over the course of the next two years. This means CSUSB's College Corps will continue to support eligible college

students, including AB540-eligible California Dream Act students, to serve their communities. My congratulations to Veronica Guzman and other CSUSB College Corps staff for securing the next round of funding for this important initiative.

- **Meeting of the Minds:** CSUSB continues to celebrate and uplift the importance of student research through this annual event which took place on April 11, 2024. This year marks its 13th anniversary. MOM was started in 2011 by professors Jeffrey Thompson and Francisca Beer. I deeply appreciate how their initiative has flourished for over a decade. I also wish to thank those who have served as outstanding faculty mentors for the students participating in this year's event.
- **MSPA Program Groundbreaking and National Application Opening:** The university held the official groundbreaking for the remodel of the former Yasuda Center into what will be a state-of-the-art facility for our forthcoming Master of Science in Physician Assistant Program on Friday April 26, 2024. Additionally, April saw the national application opening (CASPA) for the program, which will run through December 1. The MSPA program will be accepting applicants annually in a cohort model. Each cohort will travel through the program's coursework and clinical experiences as a group. The goal for the first cohort will be 40 students.

CSUSB has applied for Accreditation-Provisional from the Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant (ARC-PA). The university anticipates matriculating its first class in August 2025, pending achieving Accreditation-Provisional status at the March 2025 ARC-PA meeting.

My thanks and congratulations to founding program director Sonia Otte and the MSPA program faculty and staff, along with dean Sastry Pantula of the College of Natural Sciences, for these important milestones.

- **NSF GRFP Award:** Last year at this time, Chemistry undergraduate David Murillo was selected as a 2023 Barry Goldwater Scholar, the first at CSUSB in several decades. This year, I am proud to announce that he has been selected as a National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellow.

My congratulations to David, all those faculty members who have provided him with mentorship during his years at CSUSB, Chemistry and Biochemistry chair Douglas Smith and members of the department, along with Natural Sciences dean Sastry Pantula on this tremendous recognition and opportunity.

I wish to further acknowledge Chemistry and Biochemistry professor John Zhang for his crucial support and mentorship, which has resulted in David's being named as a Fellow. John's three years of closely mentoring David were acknowledged by David himself in a recent award ceremony.

My appreciation as well to the offices of Academic Research and Student Research for their work in supporting research at CSUSB.

- **Cybersecurity Funding from NIST:** CSUSB is receiving \$963,000 in fiscal year 2024 federal funds from the Community Development Grant offered by the National Institute of Standards and Technology, or NIST. The check was presented to CSUSB on April 26, 2024, by Pete Aguilar, Congressional representative in California's 33rd district. These funds will provide technology upgrades in the CSUSB Tech Workforce and Apprentice Hub on the CSUSB campus where CSUSB students, university faculty, community college faculty and employers will be training on cybersecurity projects. My thanks to Rep. Aguilar for his support of our application for these funds.
- **CSU ACIP Reception at CSUSB:** CSUSB served as the host for the California State University Academic Council on International Programs annual conference at the San Bernardino campus on April 24-26, 2024. We know that student participation in education abroad activities, for example, is a proven high impact practice and student success tool. My thanks to the College of Extended and Global Education's international team for the incredible work they have done to advance international education here at CSUSB.
- **Annual Retirement:** The President's Annual Retirement event took place on April 30, 2024. This year, we recognized 55 retirees: 24 faculty, 23 staff and eight administrators. Thirteen served for 10 years or more, 18 contributed 20-plus years of service and 16 spent three decades or longer at CSUSB. The faculty retiree with the highest years of service is Josephine Mendoza, professor emeritus in the School of Computer Science and Engineering in the College of Natural Sciences, who retired after 39 years. And the staff retiree with the highest years of service is Kenneth Murillo, mail clerk in Mail Services, who is retiring after 38 years. This year's additions bring the total to 1,193 CSUSB employees who have been honored since the first luncheon in May 2001.
- **UPD 50th Anniversary:** CSUSB's University Police Department celebrated its 50th anniversary on May 1, 2024. The event highlighted UPD's 50 years of dedicated service to our campus community, as well as how the department has evolved over the years. It has grown to provide a full range of quality service beyond its initial night watchman duties. We owe it to all who come onto our campus—either as guests or as students, faculty or staff—to provide a safe environment. Here at CSUSB, we are a diverse, inclusive and welcoming community, and UPD's role includes both participating in and protecting that goal. What we have worked hard to achieve over the last 10 years is a recognition that UPD is part of the campus, not an external operation to the campus, and that they are therefore a part of the community.

My congratulations to UPD's chief, John Gutierrez, and the members of CSUSB's UPD on this milestone.

- **Honorary Degree Celebration:** CSUSB’s two honorary doctorate recipients for 2024 were celebrated on May 3, 2024, at a special event recognizing their forthcoming honorary doctorates in humane letters. CSUSB alumni Respondia “Dia” S. Poole and Ellen G. Weisser were commended for their achievements and their service. Each will receive their honorary doctorate at CSUSB’s spring Commencement ceremonies.
- **DEI Board Spring Retreat:** The DEI Board Spring Retreat took place on May 9, 2024. My thanks to all DEI Board members over this past academic year as our university continues to look for ways both to strengthen and ensure diversity, equity and inclusion are hard-wired into all that we do as a university community. This work is especially important at a time when several states have banned the inclusion of DEI in public education.
- **Annual Faculty Recognition:** The annual Faculty Recognition event was held on May 10, 2024. I look forward to this annual occasion to celebrate the achievements and the CSUSB careers of our faculty members, and this year was no exception. Congratulations to all the award winners and those marking their service anniversaries.
- **Annual Student Art Show:** The Annual Student Art Show also took place on May 10, 2024. It was a wonderful showing of our art and design students’ talent. This year’s guest juror was Lisa Henry, curator at the Riverside Art Museum. Also, I selected Charlee Macomber’s “Green Sea Turtle” for the President’s Award this year. Charlee’s piece is oil-based relief ink for lino-cut on fabriano paper.
- **PDC Update:** The Palm Desert Campus has a number of updates:
 - Seven PDC hospitality management students, accompanied by program director Joseph Tormey, traveled to New York City on March 1-4 to attend the New York Restaurant Show at the Javits Center, which combines world-class education with industry-influencing demonstrations. Industry leaders delivered applicable business lessons and seminars, the latest information on market trends and best practices, and their opinions on what creates success.
 - Student Juliana Garcia was profiled by CSUSB for her role as a College Corps Fellow with Big Brothers and Big Sisters of the Desert as her assignment. College Corps (also discussed above) combines learning experiences through volunteering in meaningful community action around education, climate and food insecurity, while also providing a financial benefit to assist with college costs.
 - PDC Communication Studies professor Lacey Kendall has been hired as a contract employee for WNYC and The History Channel to oversee the engineering of interviews for a collaborative WNYC / History Channel series called, “Blindspot - Mourning in America,” on New York Public Radio and podcast. The series focuses on the early days of the AIDS outbreak in New York and efforts to get the American government and insurance industries to respond to the need for services to people of color with AIDS in the 1970s. Professor Kendall has engineered California-based interviews for the series.

- Psychology lecturer Steve Ellyson was honored on March 28, as the 2024 recipient of the City of Indian Wells' Senior Inspiration Award. The event, now in its 32nd year, celebrates exemplary senior citizens who inspire others through their remarkable volunteerism and engagement within the Coachella Valley.
- Elias Hernandez Mancilla, College Corps program coordinator at PDC, received the "Future Is Ours" award at the OneFuture Coachella Valley "The Future Is Ours" Awards Celebration and Fundraiser.

I would like to close my report for this meeting in memory of our late colleague, Professor Tom Provenzano, from the department of Theatre Arts. My deepest condolences to his family and to all his colleagues, both within the department and across the campus, who worked with him over the years. His death leaves a hole in our campus community, as it does in Southern California's theatrical community. He will be greatly missed. A memorial was held on Saturday, April 13, 2024, from 1:30 – 3:30PM in the CSUSB Performing Arts Recital Hall.