



CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, SAN BERNARDINO
Office of the President

*PRESIDENT'S REPORT
ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL
THURSDAY – JANUARY 30, 2025*

My welcome to everyone for the first Administrative Council meeting of calendar year 2025 and the beginning of the spring 2025 semester. For those of you who have been affected by these fires, or have friends or family members who have been affected, my deepest sympathies. Please know that we here at CSUSB stand with our fellow Southern Californians in this moment. We know too well, here in the IE, what wildfires are capable of, and our hearts go out to those who have lost their homes or their lives.

Presidential Updates:

- Loss of Faculty Member Erik Schott: On behalf of the Cal State San Bernardino community, our deepest condolences to the family and friends of Dr. Erik Schott, whom we lost at the end of 2024. He was an incredible addition to our Palm Desert Campus, and his passing leaves a hole in our community.
- CSU Student Trustee Jazmin Guajardo Visit: [Trustee Guajardo visited](#) the San Bernardino Campus on Thursday, October 24, 2024. She is a nursing major at CSU Channel Islands.
- Boosting Enrollment and Strengthening Student Success: In line with both our student success and DEI goals, which also impact our enrollment (a key focus for this and coming years), CSUSB has hired Dr. Brandon Gamble, the inaugural director of the Office of Black Student Success. With over 20 years of experience in higher education and a passion for empowering Black students, Dr. Gamble will lead efforts to support academic success for Black students at CSUSB. The OBSS offers programs including peer and faculty mentoring, career connections and advising.
- Promoting Student Civic Engagement: Promoting civic engagement is part of the overall educational opportunities we offer here at CSUSB. I am proud to state that CSUSB helped make voting accessible by offering students complimentary rides to polling places on Lyft and hosting voting booths for the community at both the San Bernardino and Palm Desert campuses. Voting on Election Day, Tuesday, November 5, 2024, took place from 7 a.m.-8 p.m. In addition, ballots could be dropped off at both campuses prior to Election Day.
- 3rd Annual President's Medal: The awardee of the 3rd President's Medal was announced at the President's Holiday Dinner on December 7, 2024. This year's awardee was Michelle Decker, president and CEO of the Inland Empire Community Foundation. She was selected because of her exceptional leadership in community-

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based nonprofits for over 27 years, with a focus on community and economic development and sustainability. The award's inaugural recipient was Richard "Cheech" Marin (actor, author of children's books and a preeminent collector of Chicano art) in 2022 and the second awardee was Terrance Stone (the founder and CEO of Young Visionaries Youth Leadership Academy) in 2023.

- 2nd President's Distinguished Lecture: The 2nd annual President's Distinguished Lecture will take place on Thursday, February 6, 2025, at 5:00 p.m. in the Indian Wells Theater on the Palm Desert Campus. This year's speaker is Coachella Valley businessman and entrepreneur Mr. Nachhattar Chandi.
- **Budget Update**: The President's Cabinet is working on budget deficit mitigation plans for the current fiscal year and for the upcoming fiscal year 2025-26, based on the current information we have and that was presented at the Budget Open Forum. Each vice president is working with their divisions to determine how they can maximize efficiency and reduce expenses. Vice President Sudhakar and Provost Mohamed scheduled a follow up meeting with the University Budget Advisory Committee in December in order to receive feedback. All decisions will be made in concert with the Collective Bargaining Agreements.
- **Capital Campaign Update**: I am pleased to report that, as of January 17, 2025, we currently stand at **\$222 Million, total**.
- **Fall Commencement**: Our [Fall Commencement ceremonies](#) took place on Friday through Saturday, December 13-14, 2024, in the Coussoulis Arena on the San Bernardino campus. My thanks to everyone who participated.
 - Friday, December 13, 2024
 - Social and Behavioral Sciences at 1:30pm
 - Child Development - Economics - Ethnic Studies - Political Science - Psychology
 - Social and Behavioral Sciences at 6:00pm
 - Anthropology - Criminal Justice - Geography and Environmental Studies - History - Social Sciences - Social Work - Sociology
 - Saturday, December 14, 2024
 - College of Natural Sciences at 9:00am
 - College of Arts and Letters and Watson College of Education at 1:30pm
 - Jack H. Brown College of Business and Public Administration at 6:00pm
- **Scholarship Success Summit**: Local African American high school students from Riverside County gained academic and financial resources through interactive workshops and hands-on assistance at the "Scholarship Success Summit: Your Path to Higher Education" on October 15, 2024. This marked the first time CSUSB's Office of Outreach and Student Recruitment and Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity Inc., in collaboration with the San Bernardino City Unified School District and the Heritage Program in the Riverside Unified School District, hosted the event at CSUSB.
- **Cyber Ecosystem Leadership Forum**: CSUSB welcomed the then-White House Deputy National Cyber Director in the Executive Office of the President along with members of

Congress, business leaders, government officials and leadership from the State of California and the County of San Bernardino on October 25, 2024. My congratulations to Tony Coulson, executive director of the newly renamed Center for Cyber and AI, along with his staff for a successful convening.

- **Seminar for Community College Workshop CEOs & Chairs:** On November 1, 2024, CSUSB convened a group of community college leaders for a workshop on “Building Philanthropy: A Workshop for Community College Leaders.” It was part of an initiative involving our own Philanthropic Foundation and the Association of Governing Boards. The result was deeper ties with our community college partners and a further strengthening of the cradle-to-career pipeline here in the Inland Empire. My thanks to Robert Nava, vice president for university advancement, and his staff for a successful workshop.
- **CSUSB Chamber Singers Performed at Walt Disney Concert Hall:** The CSUSB Chamber Singers performed alongside the Los Angeles Philharmonic at Walt Disney Concert Hall on December 21 and 22, 2024. Under the baton of conductor David Newman, the Hollywood Bowl Orchestra provided an orchestral backdrop to the choral performance.
- **Palm Desert Campus Updates:**
 - Fall Preview Day: This event, introducing prospective students to the academic and social opportunities available at CSUSB, took place at the PDC on November 9, 2024.
 - Direct Admission: Eligible students at every public high school in Riverside County will be offered direct admission to the California State University, including Cal State San Bernardino, for the fall 2025 term, before they even apply. This is the result of the CSU partnering with the Riverside County Office of Education to offer the first-ever direct admission pilot for the CSU system.
 - Faculty Expansion: As the Palm Desert Campus continues to expand its programs and services to meet the needs of the local community and beyond, four faculty have joined the PDC. They include:
 - The late Erik Schott, who taught courses on human behavior and the social environment, advanced clinical social work practice, as well as an elective on social work practice with the LGBTQ2SIA+ community;
 - Kevin Grisham, relocating to the PDC and returning to his role as professor of global studies after serving as a university administrator for the past three years;
 - Emily Loveland, whose expertise in social work brings new opportunities to students and the local community; and
 - Thomas Chapman, who is an assistant professor in the department of information and decision sciences.
 - Scholarships: The PDC announced the distribution of more than \$100,000 in scholarships for the 2024-25 academic year. The scholarships were awarded to more than 50 deserving students across various disciplines. These scholarships recognized not only academic excellence, but also community involvement and dedication to personal growth.

- MSW Accreditation: The new Master of Social Work (MSW) program at the CSUSB Palm Desert Campus has been officially accredited by the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE), the accrediting body for all social work programs in the United States. My congratulations to the faculty in this new program along with the faculty of the School of Social Work, Director Deidre Lanesskog, Associate Vice President Edna Martinez, Dean Christina Hassija and the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences.
 - City of Indio Business Connect Initiative Partnership: The CSUSB School of Entrepreneurship (SOE) and the Inland Empire Center for Entrepreneurship's Coachella Valley Women's Business Center (CVWBC) have created a new partnership with the City of Indio's new Business Connect initiative. Launched by the city of Indio's Economic Development Department, the Indio Business Connect (IBC) program aims to meet the evolving needs of the city's thriving business community.
 - CSUSB Nursing Program Celebrates 50 Years: CSUSB students, faculty, staff and alumni gathered at both the Palm Desert and San Bernardino campuses on Tuesday, December 3, 2024, for two special ceremonies celebrating the Cal State San Bernardino Department of Nursing's 50th anniversary.
 - PDC nursing instructor Diane Vines was honored by the American Psychiatric Nurses Association (APNA) at a special awards ceremony in Louisville, KY, on October 9, 2024. Vines received the "Award for Innovation – Individual" at the APNA 38th Annual Conference for her work as the founder and executive director of the CSUSB Nursing Street Medicine Program. This award recognizes an APNA member who has developed and/or demonstrated a new approach to care through innovation in psychiatric-mental health nursing practice.
 - Communications faculty Dr. Bob Leo has been recently elected as chair for 2024-25 of the finance committee for the City of Palm Desert. He was first appointed in 2015 by the city council.
 - Dr. Ezekiel Bonillas, assistant professor of entrepreneurship at the PDC, was recently honored with a special proclamation from the City of Palm Desert in celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month.
- **On-Campus Events:**
 - Homecoming: I hope you all had an opportunity to participate in one or more events which were part of Homecoming Week this year (October 21-26). My thanks to all of the campus divisions and offices which were involved in making this year's Homecoming such a wonderful celebration.
 - National Native American Heritage Month: CSUSB held a kick-off event on November 7, 2024; several Native Beading Circles and Indigenous Healing Circles were scheduled during the month; and a Thanks-Taking Gathering took place on Thursday, November 21, to honor and reflect on the history and perspectives of Native American communities.
 - Spirit of the Entrepreneur: The annual Spirit of the Entrepreneur event was held this year on Thursday, November 21, 2024. I would like to congratulate Mike Stull, director of the School of Entrepreneurship and of the Inland Empire Center for

Entrepreneurship, for the establishment of this event as a leader and now fixture in the Inland Empire's entrepreneurial and business community.

- SCCUR: It was CSUSB's turn to host the [Southern California Conference for Undergraduate Research 2024](#) at our San Bernardino Campus on Saturday, November 23, 2024. My thanks to: Tim Akers, associate provost for academic research; Ryan Keating, director of the Office of Student Research; the Planning Committee, for organizing the entire event; and to all our faculty and student volunteers.
- CSUSB Alumni Hall of Fame: CSUSB has announced its annual Alumni Hall of Fame Awards to recognize the professional accomplishments and community service of distinguished alumni. The alumni will be honored during a dinner and awards ceremony on April 25 from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the Alumni Center. Those who will be recognized include:
 - **Distinguished Alumni Award**: Dr. Appannagari "Dev" GnanaDev '01, M.B.A.
 - **Emerging Leader Award**: Mirna Orihuela '14, B.S., Health Care Management
 - **Coyote Spirit Award**: Roderick M. "Rod" Hendry '83, B.A., English, '85, M.A., English Composition
 - **Paw Print Awards**:
 - Brown College: Lt. Col. Jeffrey S. Lehmkuhl '05, B.A., Management
 - Natural Sciences: Kathleen E. Elison '12, B.S., Chemistry/Biochemistry
 - Arts & Letters: Vallimar Jansen '90, B.A., Theatre Arts
 - Watson College: Mauricio V. Arellano '96, M.A., Educational Administration
 - Social & Behavioral Sciences: Wayne M. Harp '72, B.A., Sociology
- Athletics Events: I encourage you to attend an on-campus game or meet and support our scholar athletes. A full schedule of upcoming competitions can be found at the Athletics website: <https://csusbathletics.com/calendar>.
- 2024-25 CSUSB Theatre Season: Once again, CSUSB is presenting a robust collection of theatrical performances. I encourage you to catch one this academic year. The full academic year calendar of shows can be found at the Department of Theatre Arts' website and in this brochure: <https://www.csusb.edu/theatre-arts/csusb-department-theatre-arts-2024-2025-season>.
- 2024-25 CSUSB Music Department Offerings: The Department of Music is once again offering a diverse schedule of concerts, recitals and operas. The full schedule can be found on their website: <https://www.csusb.edu/music/current-productions>.