California State University SAN MARCOS | OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

Dear CSUSM faculty and staff,

As we move through the summer months, I hope many of you have had the opportunity to find some time to rest and recharge. Others have been busy with orientation, Summer Scholars and labs, construction projects, as well as summer session. Thank you for your ongoing commitment to our students and the university.

As many of you know, the state legislature passed the California Budget Act of 2025, and Gov. Gavin Newsom has signed it into law. We remain grateful to the governor and the legislature for avoiding the proposed 7.95% cut. Our advocacy mattered – and I want to thank everyone who spoke up and wrote letters against the cuts.

In summary, the final 2025 state budget defers 3% of the CSU's recurring funding to 2026-27, resulting in reduced base funding to the CSU this year. An offer of a short-term, zero-interest loan to cover that 3% gap is under review by the Chancellor's Office. This loan would have to be paid back, and additional federal actions may place further strain on the state's budget outlook for this year and years to come.

We will host a budget forum on Thursday, July 24 at 2:30 pm, following a CSU Board of Trustees meeting during which we expect to learn more. We understand that not everyone will be available to attend due to summer schedules, so the forum will be recorded and posted on our Budget Office website for you to view at your convenience.

Additionally, we will continue to provide updates on the progress of World Café workgroups and hold additional spaces and places for collaboration and conversation to build on the great budget savings ideas that you generated in the spring semester.

Thank you for all you do each day to support our students and the university.

With deep appreciation,

Ellen J. Neufeldt
President