Subject: 2024-25 Zomalt Outstanding Service Award Recipient
Date: Friday, December 13, 2024 at 1:15:55 PM Pacific Standard Time
From: Office of the President
To: Christine Paik



Dear campus community,

I am pleased to announce that Chad Huggins, the School of Arts' technical director, is the recipient of the 2024-25 Ernest and Leslie Zomalt Outstanding Service Award.

Chad's journey of outstanding service to CSUSM began as a student in the Visual and Performing Arts program (now the School of Arts), where he worked as a student assistant in 1996. Upon graduating, he was hired full-time in 1999, beginning a 25-year career as technical director. A true pillar of the School of Arts (SofA) and CSUSM, Chad exemplifies the university's mission of fostering student success through inclusiveness and engagement.

His patient leadership and tireless dedication have been integral to the growth and success of SofA, as he has been instrumental to its transition from humble beginnings to a thriving program. Chad embraces continuous improvement and innovation. Overseeing nearly every aspect of SofA's technical operations, he supports students and faculty across music, theater, dance and visual arts programs. From ensuring that facilities, labs and classrooms are updated, to managing performance spaces and art installations, Chad empowers student learning and creativity.

Chad's unwavering commitment to students shines through his support of senior capstone projects, performances and exhibitions. Whether mentoring students on technical design, guiding faculty through innovative technologies or troubleshooting last-minute challenges, Chad ensures that every project is a success. His work extends beyond the arts, as he fosters collaboration with organizations such as Center ARTES and High Tech High. His ability to connect with students, particularly as a proud CSUSM alumnus and role model for students of color, inspires the next generation of creators and leaders.

The Zomalt Award, named for early CSUSM leaders Drs. Ernest and Leslie Zomalt, honors the significant achievements of an individual who exemplifies our university's mission through service to the campus community.

Dr. Ernest Zomalt began his service at CSUSM as the Dean of Students in 1990, was promoted to vice president for Student Affairs in 1991 and agreed to serve as executive vice president in 1993 until he retired in 2000. Dr. Leslie Zomalt created the

advising services area for the College of Arts and Sciences and served in a leadership capacity for advising services from 1990 until her retirement in 1999. Upon their retirement, the Zomalts established an endowment to recognize contributions made by outstanding staff and administrators to the success of CSUSM.

Please join us in congratulating Chad Huggins and all our 2024-25 faculty and staff award recipients at the CSUSM Awards and Service Celebration on Jan. 16, 2025. Their contributions reflect the very best of Cal State San Marcos.

Sincerely,

Ellen J. Neufeldt
President