Subject: Gratitude and Warm Wishes for the Holiday Season
Date: Wednesday, December 17, 2025 at 2:01:52 PM Pacific Standard Time
From: Office of the President
To: Christine Paik

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Dear CSUSM community,

As we close out the fall 2025 semester, I want to extend my heartfelt gratitude to all of you as we celebrate the more than 1,000 new graduates who crossed the commencement stage at the new Frontwave Arena on Monday. Celebrating their achievements with so many of you was a powerful reminder of why we do this work. Every Cougar who earned their degree represents countless hours of dedication – from our students, certainly, but also from our faculty and staff who teach, mentor, support and guide them to the finish line. Thank you for the extraordinary

commitment you bring to our mission every day.

I hope each of you finds time for rest, reflection and connection with the people who matter most to you. Please take good care of yourselves and enjoy a safe and restorative holiday break. I look forward to seeing each of you back on campus in the new year.

As we look toward the spring, I also want to share an update on the search for our next vice president for University Advancement. After careful consideration, we have extended the search to ensure that we identify the best possible leader for this critical role. We will provide additional updates in the new year.

Thank you again for your dedication to our students and to the success of CSUSM. Bailey and I wish you and your loved ones a wonderful holiday season, and I look forward to all we will accomplish together in 2026.

Warmly,
Ellen Neufeldt, Ed.D.
President