**Subject:** Important Message to the Campus Community
**Date:** Wednesday, March 18, 2026 at 12:25:06 PM Pacific Daylight Time
**From:** Office of the President
**To:** Christine Paik

(View this email in a browser)




Dear CSUSM community,

By now many of us have heard disturbing reports surfacing against Cesar Chavez regarding sexual abuse of women and minors.

My thoughts are with survivors, and I want you to know that you are seen and you are not alone. I extend my compassion to anyone who may have experienced harm within our community and beyond. We hold that pain with deep concern and care.

I know that on our campus and in our community, Cesar Chavez's legacy is very personal. In my time here, colleagues have helped me understand how our connection to Cesar Chavez has been strongly tied to CSUSM's evolution and commitment to social justice. And what I want to affirm is that what we've built extends far beyond a single individual. This moment may bring up a range of emotions, including disappointment, betrayal or hurt. All of those emotions being felt are real, they matter, and I want to acknowledge that.

In times like this, we are called to hold both truth and care, and to remain grounded in our shared commitment to justice, dignity and community. We will approach this developing situation thoughtfully, starting with a renaming of our annual day of service for this year. The North County Day of Service will move ahead as an event focused on serving others. We will also place a temporary cover over the statue on campus. In the coming days, we will engage further with the campus community about how to move forward together.

The Center for Contemplative Practices will host a healing circle tomorrow, March 19, from noon-12:50 p.m. in SBSB 1109. Registration is not required. As we learn more, we will share additional opportunities to voice your thoughts and concerns.
In the meantime, I want to remind everyone there are campus resources here for you:

- Cougar Care Network
- CAMP
- Compass Center

- Student Life Centers
- Domestic and Sexual Violence Resources
- Employee Assistance Program
- Faculty & Staff Associations

With care,

Ellen J. Neufeldt, Ed.D.
President