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California State University SAN MARCOS | OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

Dear CSUSM Community,

As we begin 2025, I want to update you on the financial landscape impacting Cal State San Marcos and the CSU system following the release of Gov. Gavin Newsom's January budget plan today. The governor's proposed 2025-26 budget continues to include a recommended 7.95% reduction in ongoing funding for the CSU system as part of the broader strategy to balance the state budget. For CSUSM, a 7.95% reduction is estimated to be a $12 million cut to our general fund budget.

We are committed to continued advocacy with our state lawmakers, and the recommended reduction may be adjusted in the May revision. However, we began preparing for this possibility with the $5 million we set aside this year from the recurring budget. Additionally, the hiring chill for MPPs and staff remains in place to allow us to better prioritize resources across the campus.

Obviously, there's more work that needs to be done. As we begin the spring semester, you will see opportunities to help chart the direction of our campus in light of this budget news. We plan to hold workshops and informational forums where members of our community can provide their input.

At CSUSM, our commitment to student success remains unwavering. While we will navigate this possible reduction with care, it will require strategic adjustments, including focusing resources on core priorities rooted in our strategic plan, like access, retention and academic success. I am confident in our community's resilience and creativity as we tackle these challenges.

We will continue to work with the CSU system to advocate for the resources necessary to support our students and region, emphasizing the vital role of higher education. Thank you for your dedication to our mission, and I will keep you informed as we progress through this fiscal year.

Sincerely,
Ellen Neufeldt
President, CSUSM