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California State University SAN MARCOS | OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

Dear CSUSM community,

Welcome back, Cougars. I love all the activity on campus as we start the spring 2025 semester. Seeing students returning reenergizes me for the new year, and it was special to be part of the faculty/staff awards ceremony and celebrate those who have given so much to the university.

As I reflected on CSUSM's 35 years as a university, I was reminded of what makes our university so extraordinary: our collective commitment to research, innovation, service and the values that unite us. Together, we continue to elevate CSUSM as a leader in social mobility, academic excellence and community impact. The work we do here is not just about individual success; it's about transforming students' lives, families and our entire region for generations to come.

At the same time, I want to acknowledge those who have been affected by the recent devastating fires in Los Angeles County and closer to home here in San Diego County. While challenges like these test us, I find hope and strength in the way our campus community comes together in support and solidarity. Whether through acts of service, generosity or simply being there for one another, Cougars rise to every occasion.

Additionally, I know it's a time of significant change in our country and our world, and I want to pick up where I left off with my year-end message by reiterating how much each of you – every person on this campus – matters to me and belongs here. At CSUSM, we stand united in our unwavering commitment to EVERY member of our diverse community: our students, staff and faculty. The university is here for you and values you and your contributions to our community.

Please know that our campus will continue to provide resources and support, to ensure access to education, care and opportunities. I am truly proud of how our campus comes together to support our students, staff and faculty. The following links are a good place to start:

- Cougar Care Network
- DREAMer Resource Office
- Employee Assistance Program
- Faculty/staff associations
- Student Health & Counseling Services
- Student Life Centers for Identity, Inclusion and Empowerment
- Undocumented and Mixed-Status Support Services
- Veterans Services

Additionally, look for these upcoming online and in-person events:

- **Mindful Healing Circle for Challenging Times**
    - Thursday, Jan. 23, noon-12:50 p.m.
    - Join the Zoom session
- **Know Your Rights**
    - Thursday, Jan. 30, noon-1 p.m.
    - Cross-Cultural Center (USU 3400)
- **Informational Session: Resources and Support for CSUSM's Undocumented and Temporary Protected Status (TPS) Students and Employees**
    - Friday, Jan. 31, noon-1:30 p.m.
    - Register for the Zoom session

At CSUSM, we will approach challenges together, with our common humanity and values in mind. Wishing you a productive and inspiring semester ahead.

With care,
Ellen J. Neufeldt, Ed.D
President