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California State University SAN MARCOS | OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

Dear CSUSM staff and faculty,

Thank you for your hard work in ensuring another successful start to the spring 2025 semester. Understandably, the January release of Gov. Newsom's 2025-26 budget proposal, which includes a recommended 7.95% reduction in ongoing funding for the CSU system, has raised questions and concerns.

Additionally, I know that recent news from other CSU campuses about difficult measures such as program cuts, layoffs and other substantial reductions has heightened concern across our community. Each campus' financial situation is unique.

We have been fortunate, with strong enrollment, to be projected to have a balanced budget this year. At the same time, we need to prepare for the projected budget cuts next year. We will move forward with a process that will allow for the campus to have both information and an opportunity to share your ideas. While we must act quickly given the budget timeline and the importance of fall planning, we will approach these decisions carefully, ensuring that there is an opportunity for consultation.

To ensure an inclusive process, I invite you to join us at an **informational budget forum on Feb. 4 from noon – 1 p.m.** via Zoom to learn more about our financial situation. In addition, we will hold **"World Cafe-style" in-person workshops on** on **Feb. 11 from noon – 1 p.m. and Feb. 12 from 3 – 4 p.m.** to gather your ideas on reducing costs and increasing revenues as we determine the best path forward. Look for the invitation emails from the Office of Finance and Administrative Services, and in the meantime, you can find some FAQs on our budget page, which will be updated on an ongoing basis. Together, we will navigate this challenge with creativity, resilience and a shared commitment to our mission.

Despite the financial landscape, our commitment to student success remains steadfast. We will continue to focus on our strategic priorities as outlined in our strategic plan, while advocating strongly with our state lawmakers for the resources needed to support our students and our region.

I am confident in the strength of our community and its ability to work toward innovative and thoughtful solutions. Thank you for your dedication to CSUSM, and I look forward to working with all of you in the weeks and months ahead. We will continue to keep you informed on our progress on CSUSM's budget page.

Sincerely,

Ellen J. Neufeldt, Ed.D.
President