California State University SAN MARCOS | OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

Dear faculty and staff,

Welcome to the fall! It's always exciting to feel the vibrant energy on campus at the beginning of the semester. I have loved seeing our university come alive again today with new and returning students, faculty, and staff.

A huge thank you to everyone for your tireless support in helping our students settle into CSUSM life. Whether you are teaching class, assisted with housing move-ins or contributed to events like our New Student & Family Convocation, Cougar Question Marts and Weeks of Welcome, your collective efforts are making a vital impact. Around every corner of campus, work is being done to ensure that our students feel welcomed, encouraged and prepared.

Looking ahead

Our role as an anchor institution in the region, committed to transforming the lives of students, their families and our communities, is inspiring. At the employee convocation last week, I shared some remarkable strides we've achieved, including:

- Two philanthropic donations totaling $20 million, marking the largest gifts in university history;
- $20 million in external grant awards surpassed for the second year in a row;
- Over $1 million raised for student success and social mobility initiatives at our annual Blue & Silver Fundraising Dinner;
- Seven of the 52 students selected for the CSU Chancellor's Doctoral Incentive Program being graduates of CSUSM;
- $5.5 million given to CSUSM at Temecula by the County of Riverside to support program development to meet the workforce demands of the region.

These accomplishments are just a few examples of your incredible work and deep dedication. I shared many more faculty and staff achievements at the employee convocation. I also shared updates on the strategic plan, including our progress on inclusive excellence initiatives, expanding research and grant activities, the launch of the new Long-Range Academic Master Plan (LAMP), the start of our very first Strategic Enrollment Plan, and our preparations for the largest campaign in the university's history. I invite you to watch the video of my remarks.

Thank you for all you do for CSUSM, our students and our region. I wish you a 2024-25 year filled with renewed excitement, meaningful relationships and a strong sense of purpose that comes from our shared mission of student success and vision of social mobility.

Sincerely,

Ellen Neufeldt

President