GRADUATE RECOGNITION CEREMONY

APRIL 29, 2026



TRIO STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY SAN MARCOS

PROGRAM

REGISTRATION & RECEPTION
USU BALLROOM

WELCOME ADDRESS
Heather Northway

HONORED GUEST
Dr. Norma Larios

ADVOCATE AWARD
CSUSM Career Center

DISTINGUSHED GRADUATE WINNER
Milan Bocarski

SPECIAL AWARD

CLOSING REMARKS

*Distinguished Graduate Award Finalist

2026 ADVOCATE AWARD



CSUSM Career Center

This year, TRIO SSS is proud to present the 2026 Advocate Award to the CSUSM Career Center professional staff. The Career Center has been an invaluable partner in our students' success, providing essential career readiness through workshops on resume building, strength discovery, and salary negotiation. From leveraging AI and LinkedIn to mastering professional dining at our recent Etiquette Dinner, their dedicated guidance has empowered our students to navigate the job market with confidence and skill. Congratulations to the Career Center team for their exceptional commitment to student growth and professional excellence.

2026 DISTINGUISHED GRADUATE WINNER



Milan Bocarski

Liberal Studies B.A.

Milan Bocarski is a dedicated scholar and TRIO SSS standout who has demonstrated exceptional leadership and commitment to peer support throughout his academic journey. Before transferring, Milan served as an Honors Navigator and Writing Center Tutor at MiraCosta College, demonstrating a strong foundation in collaborative leadership and academic support. Since joining the TRIO SSS community at CSUSM, Milan has served as a Peer Writing Tutor and Peer Mentor. Known for a commitment to inclusivity, he has supported numerous TRIO SSS initiatives, including summits, Welcome Days, and cultural events. Milan also facilitated a scholarship essay workshop and organized student engagement activities such as Game Nights, helping to build a welcoming, family-like environment. Milan's dedication to student success and active participation in program events exemplifies the spirit of this Distinguished Graduate Award.

CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATES

Brian Aguirre Garcia, Criminology & Justice Studies, B.A.

Edwin Ajanel, Speech Language Pathology, B.S.*

Alexa Alcala, Psychological Science, B.A.

Ximena Arana, Psychological Science, B.A.

Mia Arzate, Criminology & Justice Studies, B.A.

Ashley Bailey, Business Administration, B.S.

Eleodoro Barragan-Isidoro, Business Administration, B.S.

Bonnie Bettencourt, Speech Language Pathology, B.S.

Milan Bocarski, Liberal Studies, B.A.*

Danna Castaneda Paniagua, Kinesiology, B.S.

Brytany Castro Siqueiros, Kinesiology, B.S.

Erin Corona, Child & Adolescent Development, B.A.

Fermin Corona, Mathematics & Applied Physics, B.S.

Eduardo Duarte, Sociology, B.A.

Cindy Gomez Ricardez, Child & Adolescent Development, B.A.

*Distinguished Graduate Award Finalist

CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATES

Diego Gonzalez, Business Administration, B.S.*

Arleth Hernandez, Communications, B.A.

Magaly Hernandez, Biological Sciences, B.S.

Nicholas Hunt, History, B.A.

Faith Johnson, Psychological Science, B.A.

Jaqueline Juarez Lucas, Kinesiology, B.S.

Oscar Lopez, Computer Science, B.S.

Cindy Luna, Biological Sciences, B.S.

CONGRATULATIONS CLASS OF 2026
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Daniel Martinez, Ethnic Studies, B.A.

Minerva Martinez, Sociology, B.A.

Erik Martinez, Kinesiology, B.S.

Anahi Martinez Perez, Business Administration, B.S.

Pamela McDaniel, Art, Media & Design, B.A.

Regina Medina, Psychological Science, B.A.*

Andy Mendez, Business Administration, B.S.

Angela Montoya, Biological Sciences, B.S.

*Distinguished Graduate Award Finalist

CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATES

Odalys Najera, Environmental Studies, B.A.

Kendra Nguyen, Business Administration, B.S.

Boaz Nguyen, Business Administration, B.S.

Nayelie Ortiz, Sociology, B.A.

Sheila Padilla, Human Development, B.A.

Clara Pascual Alvaro, Psychological Science, B.A.

Ashley Perez, Criminology & Justice Studies, B.A.

Arturo Ramirez, Kinesiology, B.S.

Daisy Refugio, Sociology, B.A.*

Alexandra Resendiz, Business Administration, B.S.

Sophia Reyes, Business Administration, B.S.

Armando Rodriguez, Kinesiology, B.S.

Alejandra Sandoval, Psychological Science, B.A.

Matthew Sayas, Business Administration, B.S.

Amira Sessions, Sociology, B.A.

Sierra Takacs- Malfavon, History, B.A.

*Distinguished Graduate Award Finalist

TRIO SSS MISSION

TRIO Student Support Services offers academic, personal, and professional support through services that empower and encourage undergraduate students to persist and graduate. TRIO SSS is committed to the CSUSM mission, provides an array of holistic enrichment opportunities and social mobility programming that aligns with regional needs to enhance student life after graduation.

TRIO

STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES

Heather Northway, Director

Perla M. Rivas, Counselor

Daniela Cardoso, Student Support Specialist

TRIO Student Support Services

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