



Colleagues and Friends,

I was honored to have the opportunity to meet with and listen to faculty at today's scheduled open forum. It was a wonderful dialogue between faculty and senior leadership on those issues most important to the academy. I also recognize that many of you were unable to attend, so I thought I would share with you the body of my opening remarks.

Best wishes,

Tomás D. Morales

Here at CSUSB, we are fortunate to have outstanding faculty, individuals who are transforming the lives of our students every day. I thank you for your dedication! In our current strategic plan, faculty success is a primary goal and a responsibility I don't take lightly.

One of the key objectives within that goal was establishing a Faculty Center of Excellence (FCE).

It was dedicated last September, designed to promote high impact research, creative activities, and scholarship. Today we are gathered in that center, where during the past six months more than 1,900 have come to take part in many meetings, programs and workshops. A small sampling of offerings and events include an academic integrity workshop, a 3-day advising institute, faculty lunch & learn sessions, a webinar on housing insecurity & homelessness, research in classroom presentations, teaching academy events, Q2S meetings and discussions, as well as a variety of guest speakers.

Many other opportunities are available to our faculty besides the FCE. The Provost provides \$1,000 professional development travel funds per faculty member.

There are also have been workshops (or scheduled workshops) on grant writing, agency-specific proposal review protocols and related topics to help increase the likelihood of funding.

As part of the Q2S conversion process, we have provided \$1,500 for curriculum design to ALL faculty who want to participate in professional development regarding pedagogy for their semester-based courses.

The Offices of Academic Research, Student Research, and Community Engagement, as well as the Teaching Resource Center offers summer faculty fellowships, professors across borders, mini grant competitions, course redesign programs, e-learning academies (in partnership with ATI), faculty assigned time grants, service learning faculty fellowships, and community-based research mini-grants.

The Office of Strategic Communication has invested a great deal of time and effort to advance our identity. Over the past 18 months, its video newsmagazine [Inside CSUSB](#) has featured 48 faculty members as well as multiple departments and programs. On average, five faculty are included in each edition of Inside CSUSB. That doesn't include the dozens of online and print pieces that Strategic Communication has produced or helped facilitate that promote our faculty's excellence.

Providing our faculty access to essential technology to complete research as well as attracting new faculty is vital to maintaining a rigorous learning environment.

*We are one of eight CSU campuses approved by the Chancellor's Office to upgrade our online network to high-speed 100 gigabytes. We are the **only** CSU campus to be upgraded to accommodate faculty research. This will accommodate high performance faculty research in chemistry, cybersecurity, geology, physics and our Water Resources Institute. Faculty will now be able to pursue various national grants that require such infrastructure to support their research computing.*

It will also help recruit new faculty focused on research using big data and high-throughput computing. This will allow for efforts involving augmented reality and virtual reality technologies, artificial intelligence and machine learning, ALL which support the CSU Graduation Initiative 2025. Ultimately, it helps our students succeed as they do research with their faculty mentors. The upgrade is expected to be completed by January 2019. ITS is working with faculty researchers on a pilot mode with plans to roll it out to the greater faculty community in the fall.

Our faculty are among the nation's finest in their chosen fields. Their numerous achievements, outstanding teaching methods, collaborative research, and embracement of diversity help make this a world-class academic university. The reputation and the legacy of this university is closely tied to the talent and quality of our faculty.

I thank you all for being here and taking part in this open forum.

WE DEFINE THE *Future*

California State University, San Bernardino
5500 University Parkway, San Bernardino, CA 92407-2393

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