

Colleagues,

As we head into Commencement weekend, I wanted to take this opportunity to thank all of you for your hard work and dedication to the success of our students. Everything we have accomplished is the outcome of working together, and I greatly appreciate your insights, initiative and input to keep CSUSB moving forward in support of our mission.

A university is not just any workplace, and our commitment to education and growth is not limited to our students; it extends to each individual who works here. As identified in our strategic plan, CSUSB is committed to faculty and staff success. The Faculty Center for Excellence is celebrating its first year as a development hub where faculty are interacting daily to get additional skill sets (pedagogical, service learning, research) and work across disciplines for their enrichment. I am grateful for everyone who has dedicated their time and effort into bringing it to fruition. The Staff Development Center, which opened in September, has quickly become a valuable asset for the men and women who serve as the backbone in support of our faculty and students. I appreciate all those involved with making the SDC an essential component of this university.

The San Bernardino campus is growing, with major projects ready to come online or in the pipeline. They include our new Dining Commons, a state-of-the-art Coyote Village student housing complex that includes space dedicated to the Honors Program, the Center for Global Innovation, a new Starbucks in the Pfau Library, Einstein Bagels in the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences, and further expansion of the Santos Manuel Student Union. A new home for the College of Arts & Letters, as well as a premier Performing Arts Center, is also on the horizon. Just as importantly, we have released a draft of our Resilient CSUSB Sustainability Plan, a guideline for building, operating and nurturing a healthier, more resilient community for the San Bernardino and Palm Desert campuses to reduce the university's carbon footprint.

External funding and philanthropy is what separates good from great universities. Our joint commitment in this area has paid unparalleled dividends. After just 21 months in the public phase, we have raised nearly \$47 million towards the \$50 million Campaign for CSUSB, the largest single fundraising initiative in university history. The key to long-term sustention of student success involves strengthening our endowment, which eclipsed \$40 million earlier this year, more than double of where it stood in 2012. As a result, we will distribute an unprecedented \$1.4 million to worthy scholars and academic programs this fall. In addition, over \$1.31 million will be made available from expendable funds to support scholarships, study abroad and other high impact practices.

Our faculty continue to be among the CSU's most prolific scholars. We expect to have acquired \$36.1 million in external funding to support research and sponsored programs in 2017-18, a record high and a testament to the work of the faculty and staff who bring new and recurring grant opportunities to campus. In support of faculty led research, our leadership in Information Technology Services has collaborated with the Chancellor's Office to increase CSUSB's Internet connectivity speed to 100 gig this summer, which will provide faculty scholars access to the Pacific Research Platform and the Open Science Grid for high performance and high throughput computing.

Finally, our remarkable legacy of community service has embraced numerous volunteer projects via student groups, departments and colleges. This year's Coyote Cares Day saw more than 600 students, faculty, staff and alumni volunteering to support San Bernardino and its residents.

I wish you all a wonderful summer, with opportunities to re-charge and refresh while our campus continues its year-round operations with the summer term and our Coyote First STEP participants. I am grateful for all of you and proud to be a member of our wonderful Coyote family.

Tomás D. Morales
President