

April 6, 2020

Dear Faculty,

During the continuously changing and concerning narratives surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic, I find calm and reassurance through the outpouring of support and some semblance of normality. I hope this is true for you and our entire Coyote family as we start the spring quarter – our last academic term before we start semesters this fall *and* our first fully virtual session at CSUSB.

Your adaptability and extra efforts (many of you essentially gave up your spring break to prepare for remote teaching and learning) have kept our campus operational during this pandemic, making it possible for our approximate 20,000 students to continue their academic journey. Thank you for your hard work, particularly given the very quick response time, and for your standing commitment to student learning and success.

While we will undoubtedly continue to respond and adapt to this horrific outbreak and temporary delivery of instruction, wonderful strides are being made daily. New operational-related questions are starting to dwindle; research projects are being advanced; thousands of award letters have been sent to newly admitted students; and faculty are becoming proficient in alternate teaching modalities. Take a moment to view our [winter newsletter](#), if you haven't already. You will find some impressive accomplishments and accolades that recently occurred despite extraordinary circumstances.

I am also frequently moved by stories about how many of you have reached out to support your fellow faculty members, whether to lend a supportive ear during stressful times or graciously share your expertise in the virtual world.

One example: Drs. Kelly Campbell, Janine Kremling, Nerea Marteache and Douglas Weiss came together to form the SBS Committee for Online Instruction. These Quality Matters-certified faculty members created a Blackboard course template for use by all faculty in the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences. They also offer weekly online course development workshops and are available for one-on-one consulting. Recently, committee members extended their expertise to support faculty from other colleges.

Such spirit and actions, as well as many, many others, will move us through these challenging times. Thank

you, again, for your labors, innovation and support. I couldn't be prouder to be a Coyote.

Take extra good care of yourself and loved ones.

Best,  
Shari

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Shari McMahan, Ph.D.  
Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs