Despite many years working in the CSU, I am still amazed and humbled by the kindness and generosity of those that give from their heart to benefit our students. But it’s really a testament to the commitment of our faculty and staff in creating an exceptional educational experience. With Thanksgiving just a week away, I thought it appropriate to share with you some special announcements.

- Long-time donor and friend Dr. W. Benson Harer made history last week. His commitment of $900,000 will establish CSUSB’s first fully-funded scholar-in-residence program. For one quarter each year, CSUSB will host a preeminent scholar with a teaching record of particular distinction in Egyptology and an emphasis on the scholarship of early Egypt art history. Funds are in place to have the Harer Egyptology Scholar in Residence on campus in Fall 2018.

- Sondra Morison (alumna) and Dr. James Brian Watts (Professor emeritus, public administration) have established a $500,000 estate gift to support low income high achieving students.

- Dean Dr. Jay Fiene and his wife Dr. Jan Muto have created a $200,000 planned gift to support opportunities for student engagement and community service for the College of Education.

- An alumnus recently made an anonymous $200,000 planned gift to support scholarships for students interested in pursuing a career in medicine or dentistry.

- The James Irvine Foundation awarded a $300,000 grant to CSUSB Philanthropic Foundation to support the regional education collaborative known as the Growing Inland Achievement. This 24-month grant will specifically help to expand staffing by hiring a Director of Organizational Intelligence and Grant Writer.

- A number of regional foundations have stepped forward to support our Infant Toddler Lab School in the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences, totaling over $56,000.

- Edison International awarded a $75,000 grant to CSUSB Philanthropic Foundation to support STEM student scholarships in the College of Natural Science.

CSUSB is blessed to not only have great friends and alumni, but a passionate community of faculty, staff and students who give back in very personal ways. All gifts are meaningful and everyone makes a difference. If you too are so inspired, I encourage you to celebrate at the #GivingTuesdayCSUSB website www.csusb.edu/giving-tuesday, where we are creating a new fund for cross-campus scholarships.

But most importantly, thank you for the hard work and dedication you provide CSUSB and the students we serve. Our success as a university is a direct reflection of your passion and energy. Thank you for making a difference.

Tomás D. Morales
President