

Colleagues,

Welcome to the beginning of the 2017-18 academic year. The opening of a new term always brings with it the opportunity for a fresh start, built on a foundation of earnest dialogue, collaboration and an established legacy of success.

We have accomplished so many great things over the past 12 months. None of these would have been possible or implemented without your input, hard work and dedication to this great university. Thank you.

As President, I remain committed to listening to your ideas, concerns and suggestions for making both the San Bernardino and the Palm Desert campuses dynamic, enlightened and supportive environments where everyone can flourish.

From all indications, we can look forward to a challenging year influenced by a rapidly changing world and a fractious national political environment. In light of that, I would like to share with you what I will be writing to our students:

I want to encourage you to gain the most out of your college experience. Study hard, get involved in campus organizations and activities and volunteer through the many opportunities that CSUSB provides. I also urge you to ...

- *Take time to listen*
- *Challenge your preconceptions*
- *Expand your horizons and your ideals*

The benefit of a college education is that it provides the critical thinking tools and specific knowledge in your field of study, offers access to a wide diversity of information, ideas and people. We are an institution that remains committed to, and which greatly celebrates, our diversity. Your professors, advisors and the entirety of the CSUSB campus community are here both to support and challenge you. Take advantage of this wonderful opportunity.

All of us can benefit from such advice. It is important to listen to one another, open ourselves up to new ideas and possibilities and seek to expand our values as well as our experiences. I will continue my commitment to enhance and celebrate this university's diversity in all its forms. In addition to our academic excellence and our devotion to service, diversity is truly a CSUSB hallmark.

My thanks to many of you for your efforts during the summer – such as leading a study abroad program, teaching in our summer session, participating in professional development opportunities, doing research, ensuring the day-to-day functioning of the campus, or working with Coyote First STEP and SOAR. I hope you had an opportunity to rest and spend time with family and friends. I also hope that any of your friends and loved ones affected by this summer's continuing fires, Hurricane Harvey, and Hurricane Irma are safe.

I am incredibly excited to begin the new academic year and look forward to seeing you all at Convocation on Monday morning.

Tomás D. Morales
President