

Dear Coyote Family,

As we head into the Thanksgiving Holiday weekend, which this year immediately precedes final exams, I want to share my thoughts on gratitude and the opportunity to give thanks.

The past few months have seen our campus forced to deal with a number of challenges. Power outages, high winds and nearby wildfires created unexpected interruptions during the fall quarter. I am extremely grateful that, save for a relatively few campus closures, there were no unfortunate outcomes. The health, safety and welfare of our students, faculty and staff remain our top priority, and I give thanks to all who help ensure we achieve that imperative.

The recent grand opening of the Center for Global Innovation, a beautiful addition to the university landscape, makes me thankful for the continuing growth and maturation of this institution. Providing access to a quality education and the opportunity to expand knowledge and understanding through positive interaction and civil exchange is a powerful and precious legacy.

Seeing a group of our students, members of the University Orchestra, travel to Korea to put on a memorable concert was a truly memorable occasion for everyone involved. I greatly appreciate how it delivered an experience those students will remember their entire lives and helped expand and enhance the reputation of this university throughout the world.

We recently completed the first comprehensive campaign in CSUSB history, an effort that saw us surpass our initial goal and raise nearly \$54 million dollars to ensure our legacy of student support, academic excellence, and educational access. More than 17,000 donors helped achieve this incredible success, and I am profoundly grateful to each for such generous support.

Our campus community, which encompasses both the San Bernardino and Palm Desert campuses, features an impressive combination of receptive and diligent students, committed and exceptional faculty, and talented and caring staff. Surrounded by a welcoming and supportive learning environment, this tremendous resource of potential and progress makes me thankful for all we, as a university, contribute to the quality of life here in the Inland Empire and beyond.

I know many of you have plans to spend the coming holiday with those who are important in your lives: loved ones, family, friends and neighbors. When time permits, take a few moments to write down those things for which you are thankful. If possible, share them with others during your holiday festivities. You will discover that they, too, have plenty to be grateful for this season, and the sharing of such heartfelt appreciation will surely lift your spirits.

From my family to you and yours, enjoy a wonderful Thanksgiving.

Sincerely,
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