

Dear Coyote Family,

As we head into the Thanksgiving Holiday long weekend, I would like to take a moment for us to stop, pause, reflect on the past year and give thanks.

This year has seen our University and the entire nation confronted by the unexpected. Since March, we have dealt with challenges created by the global pandemic. I want to express my appreciation to our students, for your focus and persistence towards your classes and degree work through an abruptly changed classroom and study situation; to our faculty, for the excellent way you have responded to the evolving circumstances; and to our staff, for continuing to look after our needs from a distance or carefully tend our physical campus for the day we can all return safely.

The efforts that led the conversion to virtual instruction last spring allowed our students to continue their academic progress through a most difficult and trying time. Over the summer months, knowing that we would again need to conduct the majority of coursework via virtual modalities, our faculty endeavored to expand their understanding and capabilities to provide a greater learning experience to students this fall. Those actions came on top of the scheduled change to the new semester calendar, an arduous conversion involving more than four years of extensive planning, discussion and execution. I am thankful that we can celebrate our first official CSUSB semester this Thanksgiving.

Our physical campus continues to move ahead as well. I am delighted to announce that our plan to create a Performing Arts village is no longer a dream. The CSU Board of Trustees in September approved the schematic design of a \$111 million construction and renovation project which will add a Performing Arts Center, an anchor building for the College of Arts and Letters and renovation of the existing performing arts building. The current opening date is scheduled for the 2024-25 academic year. I am also pleased to announce that our recent Center for Global Innovation has received the top new design in Southern California award this fall by the American Institute of Architects (California).

We can take pride in knowing our University's educational mission continues unabated. Our students are still receiving an impactful education from outstanding faculty, we remain an essential resource to our region and we serve as an inspiration to those seeking a sense of normalcy in a time of confusion and strife. I am happy to add a special note of congratulations to our students who have completed all of their coursework and graduation requirements and are set to receive their degrees this December—well done!

When time permits this holiday, I invite you to take a few moments to write down those things for which you are thankful. Despite the struggles of the past months, I believe we can still identify people, moments, or needs met for which we can be grateful this season.

From my family to yours, I wish you all a safe, healthy and happy Thanksgiving.

Sincerely,

Tomás D. Morales
President