

Dear Colleagues,

We have just held our Commencement weekend, our celebratory event marking the conclusion of the academic year, and I wanted to take this opportunity to thank all of you for your hard work and dedication to the success of our students during AY2020-21. This year marked several firsts: our first year as a semester campus and our first full academic year as a virtual campus to keep everyone safe from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Cal State San Bernardino has not only survived over the past 14 months, it has thrived. I am grateful, humble and deeply appreciative for each one of you. Everything that we have accomplished is because we have worked together across the university. I appreciate all you have done to keep CSUSB moving forward. It has not been easy, but you have all persisted.

I am proud that the campus has produced its inaugural diversity, equity and inclusion strategic plan. It will inform and guide our culture of DEI at CSUSB to be a part of all that we do here and to build on our past efforts in order to make them more effective and robust.

While events have migrated to online gatherings, they have encompassed talks, panels, presentations, conferences, performances and research. Aided by our stellar ITS division, our digital infrastructure has remained healthy and able to handle the increased load of being a largely virtual university both for operations as well as teaching, learning and research.

Meanwhile, personnel have handled the day-to-day maintenance of our San Bernardino and Palm Desert campuses, and work has continued on both the Santos Manuel Student Union expansion and the new Performing Arts Village.

It is exciting to report that our talented faculty and staff received nearly \$37 million in grant awards in the most recent grants summary report and we have continued to successfully fundraise through the pandemic for a total of \$8.7 million to date in FY2020-21.

I am incredibly hopeful for the fall. With multiple vaccines available free of charge, the growing number of vaccinated residents, and our state's current progress in combating the virus, our return to an in-person institution of higher education is on track. I look forward to hosting an in-person celebration for the graduates of spring 2020, winter 2020 and spring 2021 in the coming months. While I anticipate various health and safety protocols will remain with us for a while as yet, nevertheless, being able to see one another and interact face-to-face and not simply via screens will be greatly welcomed.

Let us take this summer to re-charge, refresh and begin to prepare for a gradual return to the campus. I am grateful for all of you and proud to be a member of our wonderful Coyote community. Sincerely,

**Tomás D. Morales**

President