

Fall Commencement 2022 Update: DECEMBER 11 - NEW DATE and LOCATION SECURED
FROM PRESIDENT MORALES

Dear Coyotes and Campus Community:

I have heard from several of you regarding your distress about the campus' decision to cancel our Fall 2022 Commencement. While not all California State University campuses have a Fall Commencement, we know that it is a much-loved Cal State San Bernardino tradition. To hold this event, however, we require a location which can accommodate not only our graduates but also—and this is key—allow graduates to bring several family members as guests. The now-offline Coussoulis Arena has served us well for our previous Fall ceremonies as it accommodates approximately 4,000 guests per ceremony. The decision to cancel was not made lightly but after significant discussion and research into the unfortunate reality of the situation that we face this December 2022.

I am happy to share, however, we learned last night that a new cancellation at **Toyota Arena** in Ontario means we **will** be able to hold our Fall Commencement in two ceremonies on **Sunday, December 11, 2022, at 1:00 pm and 5:30 pm**. My deepest gratitude to our CSUSB staff who have continued to go above and beyond in working with area venues just in case an opportunity like this might arise.

All eligible Fall 2022 graduates will be hearing from the Commencement Office in the next 24-48 hours with registration information and ceremony details regarding this new date and venue. Additional Grad Days events will also be scheduled in order for eligible graduates to order ceremony regalia and Grad Day Packs. Watch your email for details.

Please know that CSUSB's ongoing commitment is to provide an in-person Commencement experience which allows for as many members of each graduate's family as possible to be able to attend and watch their graduate cross the stage. This is even more important due to our majority first-generation student population. Being able to celebrate this achievement is key not only for each graduate but also for their family members who have supported them and who are seeing this achievement as a model for younger family members.

For those who wish to know greater detail concerning the status of the Coussoulis Arena, here is an update:

- The impacts of Tropical Storm Kay, on Sunday, September 11, 2022, resulted in the flooding of 18 campus buildings and the closure of campus on Monday, September 12, 2022. The estimated cost of damage sustained by CSUSB is \$20 million.
- The destruction of our recently replaced floor in the Coussoulis Arena has been total. There are several factors affecting the speed at which repairs can be made, though CSUSB is working to expedite them as much as possible. They include: the need to rip out the entire floor, which necessitates removal of all of the bleachers; ongoing work with a third-party industrial hygienist on monitoring and documenting any health hazards

resulting from the flooding; repairing damage to the electrical and data infrastructure and replacing all impacted cabling in the Arena's walls; the availability of the replacement flooring; and then the installation of the new flooring and re-installation of the bleachers. The regrettable, but realistic, timeline for all repairs, therefore, requires that Coussoulis be closed through the remainder of the 2022-23 academic year.

I am happy that we have been able to successfully resolve the Commencement situation by carefully monitoring Inland Empire venues that meet our students' needs and moving swiftly to secure a new date the moment one became available: **December 11, 2022, at Toyota Arena.**

Tomás D. Morales
President