

Dear Coyotes and Colleagues,

As we enter the final days of the Cal State San Bernardino fall semester and begin the holiday season, I wanted to reach out and share my appreciation and gratitude to you, the members of the CSUSB community.

We have had a tremendous fall: the groundbreaking for our new Performing Arts Center, the 11th Latino Education and Advocacy Days summit (with the iconic Cheech Marin as the “padrino de honor”), the unveiling of the newly re-named James R. Watson and Judy Rodriguez Watson College of Education, another outstanding Homecoming and serving as hosts of the White House Latino Economic Summit on the San Bernardino Campus.

We are rounding out the semester with the inaugural presentation of the highest honor bestowed by CSUSB: the President’s Medal. The awardee is selected on the basis of an individual’s extraordinary service to a field, profession or our nation, and/or to individuals who have made outstanding contributions to the wellbeing of others. Said individuals have not attended and/or are not graduates of CSUSB.

This year’s recipient, our very first honoree, will be Mr. Richard “Cheech” Marin. We will celebrate him at the annual holiday dinner held by the CSUSB Philanthropic Foundation Board of Directors at the Mission Inn in Riverside on November 30, 2022. I am pleased that we are building close ties between him and CSUSB.

Mr. Marin was selected because of his accomplishments as an actor, author of children’s books and a preeminent collector of Chicano art. His recent partnership with the Riverside Art Museum to establish the Cheech Marin Center for Chicano Art and Culture is having a huge positive impact right here in the Inland Empire. The Cheech, as this new museum is affectionately named, has already become a cultural icon and destination. In addition to all of these achievements, he has become a nationally ranked golfer, active in the charity circuit.

These are amazing things to celebrate and appreciate. But the strength and resilience of CSUSB is due to each of you and all that you do, every day, to persevere in your academic goals (as a student), to serve students as teachers, mentors and researchers (as a faculty member), and to handle all of the myriad details behind the scenes which keep this campus flourishing (our staff and administrators). Those are the things I am most grateful for.

Happy Holidays!

Tomás D. Morales
President