

Dear Colleagues:

I am saddened to write you today about the passing of a beloved member of the Cal State San Bernardino community, former provost and vice president for academic affairs Lou Fernandez. He passed away on the evening of March 28th.

Lou first came to CSUSB in 1991, from New Orleans, as dean of the College of Natural Sciences and professor of geological sciences. He was named acting vice president for academic affairs in 1994 and then appointed to the permanent position in 1995. He assumed the title of provost in 1998. He retired in 2009.

Lou was proud of his Bronx childhood and his Puerto Rican heritage. He cherished the time he spent with students as a professor of geology and was a mentor and role model to many. He remained in contact with his graduate students over the decades, going back to his years at the University of New Orleans.

He provided the preface to Michael Burgess' history of CSUSB, entitled *The Coyote Chronicles: A Chronological History of California State University, San Bernardino, 1960-2010*. Lou wrote,

“I’m proud of my own contributions to CSUSB, while being all too aware that my efforts have been bolstered and made more effective by so many others on campus. I’ll miss Cal State San Bernardino, where I’ve spent almost half of my professional life, but I’ll treasure this history—and my many memories.”

I first came to know Lou when I worked at Cal Poly Pomona and viewed him as a mentor and then as a dear friend. My heartfelt condolences to his family, in particular his long-term partner and companion Laurel and his son Patrick. He was preceded in death by his late wife, Elsa Ochoa Fernandez. Details as to a memorial service will be forthcoming in the near future.

Sincerely,

**Tomás D. Morales**  
President