

Dear Coyotes and Colleagues,

Happy New Year to you! I hope that your holidays were festive and bright, filled with friends and family and the presence of supportive community.

My holiday season really kicked off with the opportunity to honor Richard “Cheech” Marin with the inaugural Cal State San Bernardino President’s Medal, the highest recognition bestowed by the university on an individual who never attended or graduated from CSUSB. Was he as fun and funny as his reputation? Yes! And, even more, he was warm, personable and humble.

December itself flew by, as classes wrapped up and we celebrated the fall graduates with a mid-year Commencement ceremony at the Toyota Arena in Ontario. It never gets old watching the excitement on the faces of our graduates and the pride clearly reflected in the applause of their family members and friends who were gathered to cheer them on in reaching this tremendous academic achievement.

Another milestone in the history of our university to begin this new calendar year is the appointment of the next provost and vice president for academic affairs. Interim provost and former dean of the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences, Dr. A. Rafik Mohamed, has assumed the permanent role effective January 1, 2023. An outstanding leader, academic and educator, his dedication to our mission and to student success makes him the perfect fit. Please join me in congratulating him as our new provost!

Now that Cal State San Bernardino is on a semester-based academic calendar, the month of January is an academic in-between time that we call “intersession.” This is still a new part of the university calendar and I appreciate watching its development and the opportunities it provides for our students.

I look forward to the coming year and the spring semester. While we recognize history and past practices on our San Bernardino and Palm Desert campuses, we also celebrate innovation and breaking new ground, literally and figuratively, as we move confidently into the future. Tomorrow looks bright here at CSUSB—thank you for being a part of our journey.

My very best wishes for a wonderful 2023.

Sincerely,

Tomás D. Morales
President