I am pleased that the Spring 2024 Semester has begun, and we can put the labor issues behind us. I wish to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued commitment to our students. While there can be no CSUSB without its faculty and their fundamental importance in the education and development of our students, there can also be no CSUSB without its outstanding and dedicated staff and administrators who keep our university functioning. Thank you all.

- **Fall Commencement:** Our Fall Commencement ceremonies took place on December 15-16, 2023, in the Coussoulis Arena on campus. It was a celebration of our students’ dedicated work and hard-won accomplishment of completing their degrees. Their success is our success, and I want to thank all of you for what you do, every day, to support our students.

- **Our Defining Moment Blended Campaign Update:** I am pleased to report that we stand at **$214 Million** as of 1/22/24.

- **Grand Opening of the ERC in Temecula:** The Entrepreneurial Resource Center in Temecula held its grand opening on January 24, 2024. The Center is a joint CSUSB – city of Temecula project, with the participation of Riverside County, and will be housed in the city’s Temecula Valley Entrepreneur’s Exchange, or TVE2, space. As at the San Bernardino ERC, its goal is to serve as a hub for aspiring and already existing entrepreneurs and small business owners to gain access to resources to both launch and grow their businesses. My congratulations and thanks to Mike Stull, director of the School of Entrepreneurship, for his leadership and partnership with the city of Temecula on this initiative.

- **CSUSB Leadership Retreat:** The CSUSB Leadership Retreat is scheduled for February 9, 2024. This year’s focus will be the implementation of the 2023-28 Strategic Plan.

- **Ombuds Office Closing:** The CSUSB Ombuds Office has closed, effective January 1, 2024. The office was originally established prior to the substantial expansion of services for the students, faculty and staff of our campus community. Such available
services are now more comprehensive and include offices such as Academic Success and Undergraduate Advising; Counseling and Psychological Services; the Campus Assessment, Response and Education Team; the Employee Assistance Program; Faculty Affairs and Development; Institutional Equity and Compliance (which includes Title IX); Services to Students with Disabilities; and University Police.

- **PDC Update**: The Palm Desert Campus has a number of updates:
  - PDC alumna Alexis Arias, who is a 12th grade English teacher at Desert Sands Unified School District’s Amistad High School, has received the prestigious Milken Educator Award, which comes with a check for $25,000.
  - The PDC’s fall “Taste of Research” event took place on November 15, 2023. Its purpose is to introduce PDC students to the Office of Student Research while also providing an overview of OSR’s activities and funding opportunities.
  - The PDC’s Nursing Pinning Ceremony took place on December 15, 2023, to recognize and honor the 20 pre-licensure nursing students who completed the nursing program along with a bachelor of science degree in nursing.
  - PDC nursing instructor Diane Vines has received the Alma Gault Award for Public Service from her alma mater, Vanderbilt University. The award recognizes her dedication to caring for underserved populations and her work as founder and director of the CSUSB Nursing Street Medicine Program.
  - The annual Hospitality Management Gala, which hospitality management majors participate in planning and running as part of their degree work, is scheduled for April 27, 2024, from 5:00 – 9:00 PM at Renaissance Esmeralda Resort and Spa, Indian Wells. This year’s theme is “Spirit of Polynesia.”

- **CSUSB Events**:
  - **Renaissance Scholars Fundraiser**: The fundraiser for CSUSB’s Renaissance Scholars Program, part of our Educational Opportunity Program, is being held later today, February 1, 2024. I know it will be a wonderful event in support of a program that does so much to serve our students who are both current and former foster youth. Renaissance Scholars provides comprehensive support services from the transition to becoming a university student through graduation.
  - **Inaugural Campuswide Hall of Fame**: CSUSB will be holding its inaugural campuswide Hall of Fame on February 16th to honor extraordinary alumni. The three campuswide honorees are Ellen Weisser (Class of ’68; Alumna of the Year), Bill Stevenson (Class of ’84; Coyote Spirit Award) and Albert Jasson (Class of ’15; Emerging Leader Award). In addition, each academic college will present a Paw Print Award, highlighting the breadth of talent and excellence within the university.
  - **Coyote Cares Day**: I encourage you to participate in this year’s Coyote Cares Day, which is scheduled for February 17, 2024.
  - **Pioneer Breakfast**: This year’s Pioneer Breakfast is scheduled for February 23, 2024. This event is a wonderful, inspiring annual celebration, and I encourage everyone to attend to support our Black students, faculty, staff and alumni.