

Dear Coyotes and Colleagues,

Welcome to the New Year of 2025! I hope that your holidays were warm and festive, filled with friends and family and the presence of a supportive community.

The end of 2024 was, as ever, a busy time at CSUSB. We presented our third President's Medal to awardee Michelle Decker, who is president and CEO of the Inland Empire Community Foundation. Ms. Decker was selected because of her exceptional leadership in community-based nonprofits for over 27 years, with a focus on community and economic development and sustainability. Her example of giving back and her contributions to the betterment of the residents in our region are truly inspirational.

At the President's annual 2024 appreciation event in early December, we welcomed alumni, donors and elected officials to celebrate the past year at CSUSB. Our alumna Abi Carter, 2024 winner of the 22nd season of "American Idol," provided special music for the guests.

Chad Mayes, who represented California's 42nd Assembly District from 2014 through 2022, received an award for his service to the university. Along with Assemblymember Eduardo Garcia (36th Assembly District, serving from 2014 – 2024), former Assemblymember Mayes secured \$79 million in state funding to build Phase I of the new Student Services Building (SSB) on the Palm Desert Campus. The future PDC SSB will be able to accommodate up to 4,000 students and is designed for maximal flexibility as the campus continues to grow.

Congressman Pete Aguilar (California's 33rd Congressional District), former California State Senator Richard Roth (California's 31st Senate District, serving from 2012 – 2024) and former Assemblymember Garcia were also thanked in absentia for their efforts to collectively generate nearly \$100 million in state and federal funding for CSUSB.

The university's endowment has increased 141 percent over the past 10 years, from \$24 million to \$60 million. Also, over that period, CSUSB awarded more than \$14.8 million in donor scholarships to support more than 5,200 students. Of those students, 4,100 are now alumni.

December wrapped up the fall semester, with our fall graduates walking across the stage in the Coussoulis Arena at our mid-year Commencement ceremonies. These two days of celebration were, as always, exciting and inspiring as we recognized our now-alumni with their degree achievements in front of their family and friends.

We also finished the end of 2024 with some great news from *Our Defining Moment: The Campaign for CSUSB*—we have reached \$221 million! The campaign's four pillars include: student support and scholarships; faculty support and endowed chairs; support for research centers and institutes; and capital support for new initiatives such as our Performing Arts Theater, Student Services Center in the Palm Desert, the Master of Science-Physician Assistant Program and science labs.

Thanks to our faculty and staff, we have achieved our sponsored research goals! Because, in this campaign, we are counting all the successful research grants applied for by our faculty and staff! In this area, CSUSB is definitely punching above its weight. But we are still working on our philanthropic goals, so the campaign remains ongoing.

While we face some financial headwinds in 2025 because of anticipated state funding cuts, please know that our students remain our top priority. CSUSB is committed to supporting and enabling student success.

I look forward to what we can achieve over the coming year, starting with 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. For example, we eagerly await the opening of the new Performing Arts Building in the next few months!

My New Year's wish for CSUSB is that we continue to build a future based on the pursuit of knowledge and the well-being and sustainability of our diverse university and local communities. Thank you for being a part of our journey.

My best wishes as we begin a fresh, new year!

Tomás D. Morales

President