



CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, SAN BERNARDINO  
*Office of the President*

*PRESIDENT'S REPORT*  
*ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL*  
*THURSDAY, MAY 1, 2025*

I am happy to report to the Administrative Council that CSUSB is successfully wrapping up its academic year and is ready to head into its exciting spring 2025 Commencement weekend.

- **Passing of President Emeritus Dr. Anthony “Tony” Evans:** As I stated in my campus communication on April 23<sup>rd</sup>, on behalf of the CSUSB community we are greatly saddened by the loss of President Emeritus Tony Evans, CSUSB’s second president (1982-1997). Our university owes him an enormous debt of gratitude for his years of service. He had a huge impact on who we are today as a university (including overseeing our transition to becoming an actual “university”) along with establishing our Palm Desert Campus.
- **Spring Commencement Schedule:** Spring Commencement will be in-person on May 16-17, 2025, at the Toyota Arena in Ontario. Graduates from both the San Bernardino and Palm Desert campuses will be recognized. The schedule is as follows:
  - Friday, May 16 @ 1:30PM and 6PM: College of Social and Behavioral Sciences
  - Saturday, May 17 @ 9AM: Jack H. Brown College of Business and Public Administration
  - Saturday, May 17 @ 1:30PM: College of Natural Sciences
  - Saturday, May 17 @ 6PM: College of Arts and Letters and James R. Watson and Judy Rodriguez Watson College of Education
- **Annual Faculty “Surprises”:** The spring semester is the time of year when we present our faculty members with campus-wide awards, as selected by a committee of their peers:
  - Outstanding Lecturer, March 20<sup>th</sup>: Congratulations to Rachel Estrada, School of Social Work.
  - Golden Apple, April 21<sup>st</sup>: Congratulations to Jennifer Alford, Department of Geography and Environmental Studies.
  - Outstanding Service, April 22<sup>nd</sup>: Congratulations to Yan Zhang, School of Computer Science and Engineering.
  - Outstanding Faculty Advisor, April 28<sup>th</sup>: Congratulations to Lúa López-Perez, Department of Biology.
  - Outstanding Professor, May 1<sup>st</sup>.

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These faculty awards are a wonderful CSUSB tradition and are the highest honors bestowed on our faculty here at Cal State San Bernardino. My congratulations to all this year's awardees, along with my appreciation for their outstanding work in support of our students as well as their commitment to excellence in scholarship, teaching and the pursuit of knowledge. My appreciation as well to the awards committees for their efforts and discernment over this past academic year.

- **Presidential Updates:**

- Choose CSUSB - SBC and PDC (March 22 and 29, 2025, respectively): I provided the welcome at this spring's two recruitment drives, to encourage admitted students to enroll. The San Bernardino event was enormously successful—it was standing room only as I delivered my opening remarks. Six hundred students and approximately 1,200 family members and guests were in attendance. We had good attendance at the PDC event as well (over 150 attendees). My thanks to Vice President David Dufault Hunter and the division of Strategic Enrollment Management and Marketing, as well as all faculty, students, administrators and staff who assisted with making these events a success for our potential new students.
- California College Guidance Initiative (CCGI) Regional Partnership Event (April 14, 2025): CSUSB hosted this regional event which included the San Bernardino County Superintendent of Schools, Ted Alejandre, along with a representative from the Riverside County Superintendent of Schools' Office. The event also involved CaliforniaColleges.edu: "California's official college and career planning platform. Lessons and tools help students discover goals for life after high school, make plans to achieve them, and launch their futures. It's free for California 6th - 12th grade students, their parents, and educators."
- ASI Election: ASI held their annual elections online from April 22-24, with the official reveal of the 2025-26 elected officers on April 25, 2025. My thanks to all our students who have chosen to participate in student government, as well as to our student body for participating in this opportunity to directly elect their representatives.
- Alumni Hall of Fame: This event, honoring eight alumni, took place on the evening of Friday, April 25, 2025. The winners included:
  - Dr. Appannagari GnanaDev '01, Distinguished Alumni Award;
  - Roderick Hendry '83, '85, Coyote Spirit Award;
  - Mirna Orihuela '14, Emerging Leader Award;
  - Jeffrey Lehmkuhl '05, Paw Prints Award – Jack H. Brown College of Business and Public Administration;
  - Kathleen Elison '12, Paw Prints Award – College of Natural Sciences;
  - ValLimar Jansen '90, Paw Prints Award – College of Arts and Letters;
  - Mauricio Arellano '96, Paw Prints Award – James R. Watson and Judy Rodriguez Watson College of Education; and
  - Wayne Harp '72, Paw Prints Award – College of Social and Behavioral Sciences.
- UAlbany Recognition: I was recognized with the 2025 University at Albany (State University of New York or SUNY) Excellence Award for Education from the UAlbany Alumni Association on Saturday, April 26, 2025, in Albany, New York.

- IE Black Grad Ceremony: CSUSB will be serving as hosts again for the 2025 ceremony, which will take place on Sunday, May 4, 2025. This is the largest African American high school recognition ceremony in Southern California. We are proud to be able to support this group of students, support which reflects our commitment to the principles of diversity, equity and inclusion.
  - President's Annual Retirement Celebration: The President's Annual Retirement event will take place on May 14, 2025.
- ***Our Defining Moment Blended Campaign Update***: I am pleased to report that, as of April 21, 2025, we currently stand at **\$224 Million, total**. This includes: \$3M for Capital, \$53M for Academic Support, \$74M for Faculty Support and \$95M for Student Support. The philanthropic goal of \$70M is now 80% complete with a current total of \$56M; the sponsored programs goal of \$130M is now 129% complete with a current total of \$168M.
  - ***Quarterly Grants and Contracts Report***: I realize there is ongoing uncertainty around the cancellation (or possible cancellation) of already approved grants (including in-progress grants) and new grant submissions. I am working closely with the Cabinet and our Office of Academic Research, the Office of Research Development, the Office of Research and Sponsored Programs and the Office of Sponsored Programs Administration, along with Tim Akers, associate provost for academic research, to track these developments and their impact on our faculty, students and research, in general, at CSUSB.

Nevertheless, please know that I am proud to be able to share with you what we were able to achieve with the second quarter report on our grants and contracts efforts for the 2024-25 academic year: Total dollars from successful grants from July-December 2024 were \$41,684,415 from 111 grants awarded; total submissions were in the amount of \$26,166,347 from 73 grant applications.

- ***Meeting of the Minds***: CSUSB continues to celebrate and uplift the importance of student research through this annual event, which took place this spring on April 10<sup>th</sup>. This year marked its 14<sup>th</sup> anniversary. MOM was started in 2011 by professors Jeffrey Thompson and Francisca Beer. I deeply appreciate how their initiative has flourished for over a decade. I also wish to thank those who have served as outstanding faculty mentors for the students participating in this year's event. Not only are you teaching your students valuable skills, you are engaging in a proven student success activity which will support and promote their persistence through graduation.
- ***President's Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Board Spring Retreat***: The President's Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Board met on April 23<sup>rd</sup> to deliver reports on programs and initiatives to date, and to plan for the coming academic year. These are values our university has followed in service of our diverse student population and the diverse faculty, administrators and staff who support our goals of academic success.
- ***Annual Faculty Recognition***: The annual Faculty Recognition will take place on May 6, 2025. I greatly appreciate this annual occasion to celebrate the achievements and the CSUSB

careers of our faculty members. Congratulations to all the award winners and those marking their service anniversaries.

- **Annual Student Art Show:** The Annual Student Art Show will take place on May 9, 2025. It will be a wonderful display of our art and design students' talent, so please consider attending.
- **Honorary Degree Celebration:** We will be holding an event for this year's honorary degree recipients on May 15<sup>th</sup>. This year's honorees will be: CSUSB alumna and educator Mary Jane McCoy, who was one of only four Black members of CSUSB's inaugural graduating class of 1967; and CSUSB alumnus and president and CEO of the Inland Empire Economic Partnership since 2010 Paul Granillo. Each will receive their honorary doctorate at CSUSB's spring Commencement ceremonies.
- **PDC Update:** The Palm Desert Campus has a number of updates:
  - Palm Desert Alumna Rhian Reyes, who works as a campaign organizer at Audubon California in Palm Desert, visited the White House and met with former President Joe Biden as part of the Chuckwalla National Monument designation.
  - 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Academic WorldQuest Competition at PDC: Facilitated and coordinated by Michael Karp, an assistant professor of history at PDC and member of the board of directors of the World Affairs Council of the Desert, this year's winners included Palm Desert High School (1<sup>st</sup>), Rancho Mirage High School (2<sup>nd</sup>) and La Quinta High School (3<sup>rd</sup>). The local competition has been renamed the Charles and Priscilla Porter Academic WorldQuest competition for their years of support.
  - Gents Alliance Car Show: On February 8<sup>th</sup>, PDC hosted the 2nd Annual Gents Alliance Car Show, in partnership with OneFuture Coachella Valley, which welcomed high school students, their families and community members to campus for a day of fun, learning and networking. Attendees had the opportunity to see amazing vehicles, connect with local organizations and businesses, and discover pathways to careers and post-secondary programs.
  - PDC Spring 2025 Career Showcase: The CSUSB Palm Desert Campus Career Center successfully hosted the PDC Spring 2025 Career Showcase on February 27<sup>th</sup>, bringing together 18 regional employers offering paid job and internship opportunities.
  - First Optometry Clinic Held at PDC: On March 4<sup>th</sup>, the first-ever optometry clinic was held at the PDC. The event was co-hosted by the Western University of Health Sciences Eye Care Institute, in partnership with the CSUSB Student Health Center and the Hubbard Health and Psychological Counseling Center at the PDC. It provided a one-stop shop of reduced-cost optometry services to students who received a full eye exam, selected their frames on the spot, and even received a copy of their prescriptions in case follow-up care was needed.
  - Entrepreneurial Resource Center Launched in Palm Desert: The iHub Center in Palm Desert has been re-launched as the next CSUSB Entrepreneurial Resource Center, with an open house on March 5, 2025. The newly expanded resource will serve as a catalyst for the creation of new businesses and the growth of existing small businesses in the Coachella Valley. Located across from the PDC, the PDERC is the

- result of a partnership with the City of Palm Desert, the Inland Empire Center for Entrepreneurship at CSUSB, the Riverside County Office of Economic Development and CSUSB's School of Entrepreneurship. Congratulations to Mike Stull, professor of entrepreneurship and director of the IECE and the CSUSB School of Entrepreneurship.
- New Nursing Peer Mentoring Program: Nursing students at Cal State San Bernardino's Palm Desert Campus are stepping into leadership roles through a new Nursing Peer Mentoring Program, designed to inspire and support local high school students interested in pursuing careers in healthcare.
  - Dedication to Nursing Profession Celebration: On March 6<sup>th</sup>, PDC Nursing students were honored at the "Dedication to the Nursing Profession" ceremony for newly admitted nursing students who matriculated from pre-nursing to nursing. Participants pledged to be ethical nursing students and received a new white coat.
  - PDC Participates in Cathedral City LGBT+ Day: PDC participated in the Cathedral City LGBT+ Days Bed Race and Parade on March 9<sup>th</sup>, in downtown Cathedral City.
  - Third-Grade AVID Students Visit PDC: On March 12<sup>th</sup>, the CSUSB Office of Pre-College Programs hosted a group of 80 third-grade AVID students from the Coachella Valley Unified School District.
  - Migrant Education Career Day: The Coachella Valley Unified School District Migrant Education Program Region 7 10th Annual Career Day took place at the PDC on March 21, 2025. The event inspired more than 100 migrant students by providing valuable career guidance and mentorship, and featured a student panel, breakout sessions with industry professionals and networking opportunities, allowing students to explore various career pathways such as nursing, law and sports management.
  - Opera Performance: CSUSB Opera Theatre presented a special performance of the "AIDS Quilt Songbook" on April 11, 2025, at 7:00PM in the Indian Wells Theatre.
  - Veterans Success Center to Host Documentary: The VSC hosted a free screening of the documentary "Foxtrot: Operation Unification" on Wednesday, April 23, 2025, from 4:00 – 6:00PM in the Indian Wells Theatre.
  - Student Services Building Groundbreaking: The groundbreaking for the new PDC Student Services Building is scheduled for May 9, 2025, from 9:30 – 10:30AM.

- **Other On-Campus Events:**
  - Womxn’s History Month: A variety of events were held on both the San Bernardino and Palm Desert campuses as part of our annual March Womxn’s History Month opportunities.
  - Social Justice Summit—From Hashtags to Action: Hosted by the Office of Student Leadership and Engagement from March 17-20, 2025, this year’s summit focused on digital advocacy, providing students with the knowledge and resources to use accessible digital tools for social justice work.
  - 2025 César E. Chávez Memorial Luncheon: Scheduled this year on Saturday, March 29, 2025, the event was hosted by Latino Education and Advocacy Days (LEAD) CSUSB, the Hispanic Coalition of Small Businesses and Jesse Valenzuela. The theme for 2025 was “Telling Our Stories - Our Way, Our Voice: Latino Representation in the Arts, Media, and Education,” and featured a panel of distinguished discussants. Pepe Serna was presented with the Inaugural HCSB Lifetime Achievement Award. The event also marked the return of the Jesse Valenzuela Scholarship.
  - APIDA Heritage Month: A variety of events were held for both the San Bernardino and Palm Desert campuses as part of our annual April Asian Pacific Islander Desi American Month opportunities.
  - Arab-American Heritage Month: CSUSB celebrated Arab-American Heritage Month during April. The Pfau Library hosted an exhibit focusing on Arab literature and Arab American literature through the end of the month. Other scheduled events can be found [here](#).
  - Dream the Impossible—Native Youth Conference: Dream the Impossible Native Youth Conference, held at CSUSB on April 12, 2025, aimed to inspire Native American youth to believe that they can achieve anything they want, introduce them to Native professionals in different fields and help them understand how higher education can transform their lives. The conference was started in 2007 by several Southern California Tribes in partnership with organizations such as the California Tribal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Program and is held at a different university each year.

Finally, the sign of a vibrant and healthy higher education community is the inclusion of wide-ranging talks, presentations and seminars for our students as well as the campus community and the general public. We can say that our past academic year has demonstrated that vitality. I look forward to seeing you at Commencement, the highpoint of our academic year and the celebration of our concerted efforts to assist our students in achieving their academic goals.