



ASSOCIATION OF LATINO
FACULTY, STAFF & STUDENTS

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, SAN BERNARDINO

ALFSS ANNUAL REPORT



2025 - 2026

INDEX

2

ALFSS President Letter

3

Events

September..... 3

October..... 4

November..... 5

January/February..... 7

March..... 8

10

ALFSS Collaborative Events and Campus Committees

11

ALFSS Accounts

12

ALFSS 2025-2026

ALFSS President Letter



Dear ALFSS Members, Colleagues, Students, and Community Partners,

It is my honor to present the 2025–2026 Annual Report of the Association of Latino Faculty, Staff, and Students (ALFSS) at California State University, San Bernardino.

This past academic year has been one of remarkable growth, collaboration, and impact. Guided by our mission to foster community, advocate for educational equity, and support the academic and professional success of our students, ALFSS continued to strengthen its role as a vibrant and welcoming organization dedicated to serving the CSUSB community.

Throughout the year, our members demonstrated an extraordinary commitment to service by organizing programs that celebrated our rich cultural heritage while creating meaningful opportunities for connection and engagement. From our annual Bienvenida, which welcomed students, faculty, and staff to the new academic year, to our Festival de Calaveras honoring Día de los Muertos, each event reflected the values of community, tradition, and inclusion that define ALFSS.

Our fundraising initiatives also continued to make a lasting difference. The overwhelming success of our Annual Pupusa Sale and Festival de Calaveras scholarship auctions, together with the generosity of our members and supporters, allowed us to continue investing in the educational aspirations of our students. During our Tamal Award and Scholarship Recognition Luncheon, we proudly awarded ten \$1,000 scholarships to outstanding students whose academic achievement, leadership, and commitment to service embody the future of our community.

One of the year's most meaningful accomplishments was the Spring 2026 Latinx Graduate Recognition Ceremony. This signature celebration honored hundreds of graduates and recognized not only their academic success but also the perseverance, resilience, sacrifices, and cultural pride that made their achievements possible. Through bilingual programming, traditional music and dance, and the participation of families, faculty, staff, alumni, and university leadership, the ceremony reaffirmed our commitment to creating spaces where every graduate feels seen, celebrated, and valued.

These accomplishments would not have been possible without the dedication of our Executive Board, committee members, volunteers, campus partners, and generous donors. Their countless hours of service, leadership, and collaboration continue to strengthen ALFSS and expand opportunities for future generations of students. I extend my sincere gratitude to every individual and department whose partnership contributed to our success.

I am also deeply grateful to our members, whose continued participation and financial support sustained our mission. This year, ALFSS concluded with 51 active dues-paying members, including 20 members participating in automatic payroll deduction, providing approximately \$4,000 annually toward future scholarships. This ongoing investment reflects our collective commitment to advancing student success and ensuring that our organization remains a strong advocate for the CSUSB Latinx community. If you're not a member yet I- invite you to join and help support the growth.

As I reflect this year, I am reminded that ALFSS is strengthened by the diversity of experiences, cultures, and perspectives represented within our membership. As an immigrant, a first-generation college graduate, and the first Polish President of ALFSS, I have experienced firsthand the transformative power of belonging and community. My journey has reinforced my belief that our differences enrich our organization and that our shared commitment to educational opportunity, equity, and service unites us in a common purpose.

Looking ahead, we remain committed to expanding scholarship opportunities, strengthening campus partnerships, increasing member engagement, and creating programs that celebrate culture while empowering future leaders. Together, we will continue building a community where every student, faculty member, staff member, and alumnus feels welcomed, supported, and inspired to succeed.

On behalf of the ALFSS Executive Board, thank you for your continued trust, partnership, and dedication to our mission. We look forward to another year of service, collaboration, and meaningful impact.

With sincere appreciation,

Iwona-Maria Luczkiewicz Contreras

President

Association of Latino Faculty, Staff, and Students (ALFSS) 2025-2026

California State University, San Bernardino

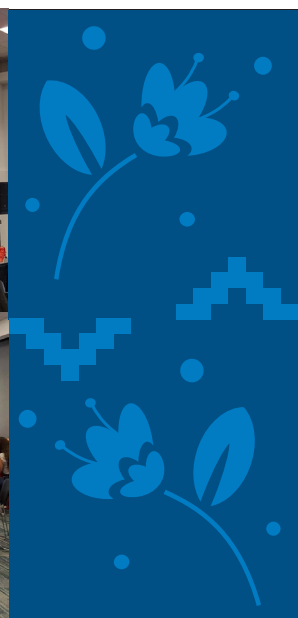
EVENTS

September

Bienvenida

The Association of Latino Faculty, Staff, and Students (ALFSS) successfully hosted its annual Bienvenida in the SMSU South Event Space on September 16, 2025 from 12:00pm - 1:00pm, welcoming 182 students, faculty, staff, and administrators to celebrate the start of the academic year and served as the kickoff for Hispanic Heritage Month. The event featured live music, tamales, pan dulce, refreshments, and opportunities for attendees to network and engage with the campus community in a welcoming and festive environment. The program included a land acknowledgement, remarks highlighting upcoming Hispanic Heritage Month events, and presentations from the ALFSS Board regarding the organization's history, upcoming initiatives, and opportunities for involvement.

The Bienvenida was one of ALFSS's most successful and well-attended events to date, creating a lively atmosphere filled with meaningful conversations, community building, and cultural celebration. The ALFSS Board played a significant role in the success of the event by coordinating setup, decorations, check-in, food service, presentations, and clean-up efforts. With total expenditures of \$1,098.87 from a \$1,500 sponsorship budget, the event concluded with a remaining balance of \$401.13. Feedback from attendees included incorporating additional interactive networking opportunities and ensuring additional refreshments and supplies for future events. Overall, the Bienvenida served as a strong kickoff to the fall semester and reinforced ALFSS's mission of fostering connection, engagement, and support across the campus community.



October

Festival de Calaveras / Día de los Muertos Celebration and Auction

ALFSS hosted the Festival de Calaveras in the Santos Manuel Student Union South at Cal State San Bernardino as part of its Día de los Muertos programming and ongoing scholarship fundraising efforts. Building on ALFSS's annual tradition of creating campus-wide cultural events that celebrate Latino heritage while supporting student success, the Festival de Calaveras invited the CSUSB community to honor Día de los Muertos through art, remembrance, community participation, and philanthropy.

The event took place on Thursday, October 30, during Coyote Hour, from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in SMSU South Events Center B. The program included face painting beginning at 11:30 a.m., a performance by Aztec dancers at 11:40 a.m., and a live auction of hand-crafted calaveras at 12:10 p.m. The event also promoted a preceding two-week silent auction of remaining calaveras. ALFSS also invited the campus community to support the community altar by bringing copies of photos and/or the names of loved ones to add to the altar in SMSU South between October 21 and November 8.

A central feature of the Festival de Calaveras was the exhibit of hand-crafted, community-made calaveras displayed in SMSU South. These decorated calaveras served as both cultural artwork and fundraising pieces, highlighting the creativity of students, staff, faculty, and community participants. The exhibit created a meaningful visual connection to Día de los Muertos traditions while encouraging campus members to engage with the auction and scholarship mission.

The live auction during the Día de los Muertos event, together with the silent auction of hand-crafted calaveras, raised \$950 for ALFSS student scholarships. These funds directly support ALFSS's commitment to advancing Latino student success at CSUSB. The auction also offered a celebratory and interactive way for participants to support scholarships while appreciating the cultural significance and artistic labor behind each calavera.

This year's Festival de Calaveras continued the strong foundation established by previous ALFSS Día de los Muertos events. Special thanks are extended to ALFSS, Acto Latino Teatro Universitario, and the Santos Manuel Student Union for helping bring the event, exhibit, altar, and auctions to life. Through the Festival de Calaveras, ALFSS continued to create a space where culture, remembrance, art, and student scholarship support came together in service of the CSUSB community.



November

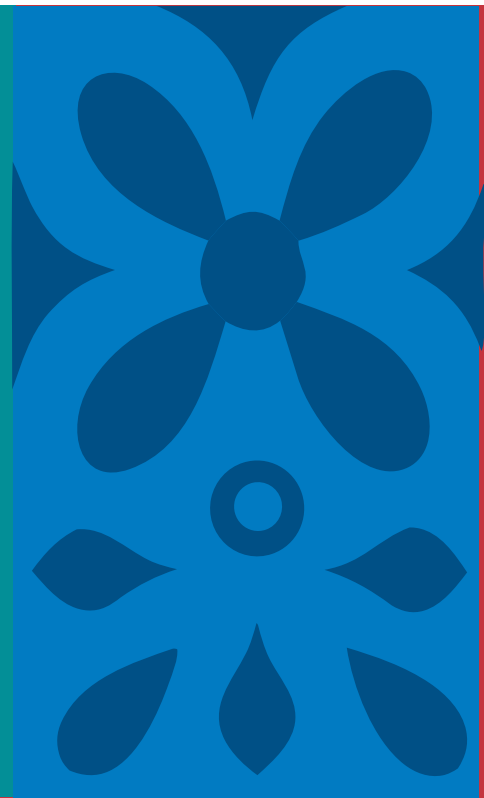
Annual Pupusa Sale Fundraiser

The ALFSS Annual Pupusa Sale Fundraiser remains our most popular and successful community event. This year's sale drew extraordinary demand — all 350 pupusas sold out in just 1.5 hours. In response to growing interest, ALFSS increased the order by 100 pupusas over the prior year, the largest quantity to date, yet the event still sold out at the same remarkable pace.

As always, the event was made possible through the generosity of ALFSS members, who donated agua frescas and paper goods, keeping overhead low and reflecting our community's collective investment in student success. For the second consecutive year, ALFSS offered on-campus delivery for \$5, with all proceeds directed toward student scholarships — an accessible giving option that deepened participation across campus.

In total, the event raised over \$1,000 in support of student scholarships, reaffirming the fundraiser's role not just as a beloved tradition, but as a meaningful vehicle for expanding opportunity within our community.

Looking ahead, the Spring Pupusa Sale Fundraiser was postponed pending updated Environmental Health & Safety documentation. ALFSS is actively working to meet these requirements and remains committed to hosting the spring event as soon as compliance is confirmed.



November

2025 ALFSS Tamal Award & Scholarship Recognition Luncheon

The Association of Latino Faculty, Staff and Students (ALFSS) hosted the annual Tamal Award & Scholarship Recognition Luncheon on Thursday, November 20, 2025, at the Santos Manuel Student Union South Event Center. The event brought together faculty, staff, students, alumni, administrators, and community supporters to celebrate scholarship recipients and honor longtime ALFSS members for their dedication and service to the Latinx community at CSUSB.

The Tamal Award, named after the traditional Latin American dish, represents the many ways ALFSS members give back to the community through leadership, mentorship, advocacy, and service. The award symbolizes the “unwrapping” of the gifts and contributions members share with others.

As part of the luncheon, ALFSS awarded ten \$1,000 scholarships to students recognized for their academic achievement, leadership, volunteerism, educational goals, and contributions to the Latino community.

Scholarship recipients included:

- Diego Esquivel — Sophomore, BA, Pre-Nursing
- Jocelyn Lopez — Junior, BA, Entrepreneurship
- Ricardo Godinez Pacas — Freshman, BA, Business Administration
- Yadhira Mejia — Senior, BS, Computer Science
- Laura Estrella Ramírez-Hernandez — Senior, BA, Psychology
- Maxemus Razo — Freshman, BA, Philosophy
- Lyda Robles — Graduate Student, MA, Spanish
- Aryanna Ruiz — Senior, BS, Health Services Administration with Certificate in Spanish Healthcare
- Stephanie Sanchez — Freshman, BS, Biology
- Andres David Uribe — Graduate Student, MA, Spanish



November

President Tomás D. Morales, recognized for his longstanding support of ALFSS initiatives, scholarship fundraising, and Latinx student success at CSUSB. Randy Valles, honored for decades of service, leadership, mentorship, and volunteer support to ALFSS and student organizations since 1985.

Maria Elena Najera-Neri, recognized for her continued commitment to ALFSS scholarships, mentorship, volunteerism, and support of Latinx student achievement as a proud CSUSB alumna and former ALFSS Treasurer.

The Tamal Awards were designed by nationally recognized Colombian sculptor Pedro Pablo Murillo, whose work centers themes of peace, social justice, and human resilience. The bronze awards, finished with gold paint and mounted on wooden bases, reflected the cultural significance and artistry behind the recognition.

ALFSS also recognized the support of campus sponsors and partners whose contributions helped fund scholarships and support event operations. Gold/Madrina/Padrino sponsorship support was provided by the

Office of the President. Silver/Amiga(o) sponsors included Academic Success and Undergraduate Advising, Acto Latino, Dra. Bibiana Díaz, the Division of Strategic Enrollment Management & Marketing, John M. Pfau Library, the College of Jack H. Brown Business & Public Administration, the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences, Santos Manuel Student Union, the Office of the Vice President for Academic Affairs, the Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs, and the Office of the Vice President for Finance, Technology & Operations.

The event was led by Dra. Bibiana Díaz, Event Chair, who originally launched the inaugural Tamal Award & Scholarship Recognition Ceremony during her tenure as ALFSS President in 2022–2023.

Her leadership continued to guide the planning and coordination of the luncheon, including sponsorship outreach, program development, event logistics, and overall event execution, in collaboration with the 2025–2026 ALFSS Board: Iwona-Maria Luczkiewicz Contreras, President; Dra. Stacey Ortiz, Vice President; Monica Baeza, Executive Secretary; Ericka Saucedo, Treasurer; Juan Silva, Director of Marketing; Dra. Aurora Vilchis, Director of Membership; Antonio Guijarro-Ledezma, Director of Programs; Brianna Deadman, Director of Scholarships & Fundraising; and Aryanna Ruiz, Student Representative. Additional support was provided by ALFSS members and volunteers through sponsorship outreach, event logistics, décor preparation, catering coordination, photography, communications, and volunteer scheduling.

Through scholarship fundraising, community celebration, and recognition of service, the 2025 ALFSS Tamal Award & Scholarship Recognition Luncheon continued ALFSS's longstanding commitment to advancing Latinx student achievement, cultural affirmation, and educational equity at California State University, San Bernardino.



January - February

Spring Social

The Spring Social held at Fire Wings in San Bernardino on January 27, 2026 from 5:00pm -6:30pm , was a successful and energetic event that helped strengthen engagement and reconnect members as the spring semester began. The gathering saw strong participation from both board members and general members, creating valuable opportunities for networking, relationship building, and community building. During the event, board members introduced themselves, shared their roles within the organization, discussed how they became involved, and highlighted upcoming events and opportunities for member participation throughout the semester.

Compared to previous socials, attendance and engagement extended well beyond the board, signaling positive momentum for the organization moving forward. Social media outreach, combined with personal invitations and word-of-mouth promotion, appeared to contribute significantly to the increased turnout. Overall, the lively atmosphere and strong participation made this one of the organization's most engaging socials to date, and future events may benefit from securing a larger venue to better accommodate continued growth and interaction.



March

Spring 2026 Latinx Graduate Recognition Ceremony

The Association of Latino Faculty, Staff and Students (ALFSS) hosted the Spring 2026 Latinx Graduate Recognition Ceremony on Saturday, May 9, 2026, at the Coussoulis Arena at California State University, San Bernardino. The ceremony honored graduating Latinx students from both the San Bernardino and Palm Desert campuses and brought together graduates, families, faculty, staff, administrators, alumni, and community members for an unforgettable celebration of culture, resilience, community, and academic achievement. As one of ALFSS's longstanding signature traditions, the bilingual cultural ceremony created a meaningful and affirming space where graduates and their loved ones were recognized not only for their academic accomplishments, but for the sacrifices, perseverance, and generational journeys that brought them to this milestone.

From the moment the arena doors opened, families and guests were immersed in a vibrant cultural experience. Inside the arena lobby, Chaparron Norteño welcomed attendees with live regional music that filled the space with celebration and anticipation as families entered and made their way to their seats. Once inside the arena, guests were greeted by the colorful performances of Ballet Folklórico Cultural de San Bernardino, whose traditional dances reflected the beauty, pride, and diversity of Latin American culture.

One of the ceremony's most powerful and moving moments was the graduate procession led by Makuill Ollin Ocelotl, whose dramatic Aztec ceremonial dance transformed the arena into a sacred space of celebration and blessing. As the rhythmic sounds of drums echoed throughout the arena, dancers appeared from the upper sections of the venue while others emerged through the arena tunnel, guiding the graduates into the ceremony with strength, energy, and tradition. Their presence symbolized blessings, protection, and honor for the graduates, their families, and the generations of sacrifice represented in the room. The procession created an emotional and unforgettable opening that celebrated both academic accomplishment and cultural identity.

The event was led by the Spring 2026 Latinx Graduate Recognition Ceremony Planning Committee:

Co-chaired by Iwona-Maria Luczkiewicz Contreras, ALFSS President, and Dr. Stacey C. Ortiz, Vice President. The planning committee included Patricia Aguilera, Jackie Aranda-Aguayo, Monica Baeza, Dr. Carmen Beck, Irene Carrasco, Dr. Elizabeth Castillo, Brianna Deadman, Dr. Bibiana Diaz, Valentina Felix, Antonio Guijarro-Ledezma, Barbara Herrera, Rebecca Hoggarth, Dr. Lua Lopez Perez, Rocio Lopez, Nadine Mendoza, Ed Mendoza, Dr. Jose Navarrete Cruz, Marcos Pineda, Carlos Robles, Aryanna Ruiz, Ericka Saucedo, and Dr. Aurora Vilchis.

The ceremony was emceed by Aryanna Ruiz, ALFSS Student Representative and Spring 2026 graduate earning a Bachelor of Science in Health Services Administration with a minor in Spanish. Through heartfelt bilingual remarks, Aryanna celebrated the sacrifices, perseverance, dreams, and collective strength of the graduating class and their families, reminding graduates that their accomplishments represented not only personal achievement, but generational triumph.



**SPRING 2026
LATINX**
Graduate Recognition Ceremony

**SAT, MAY 9
2PM - 4PM**
Coussoulis Arena

Registration deadline
April 17 or until sold out

\$35 Registration
Includes 6 tickets
Cultural sash

**Questions?
Please contact:**
latinograd@csusb.edu

REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN!!

ASSOCIATION OF LATINO
FACULTY, STAFF & STUDENTS
CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, SAN BERNARDINO

If you need accessibility accommodations please
call (909) 537-2348. A Valid CSUSB parking pass
required. This event is open to all CSUSB Students.



March

Welcome remarks were delivered by Iwona-Maria Luczkiewicz Contreras, first Polish ALFSS President, who reflected on her own experience as an immigrant and first-generation college student while encouraging graduates to continue leading with courage, resilience, and pride in their identities. University remarks were provided by Dr. Paz Olivérez, Vice President of Student Affairs, who reaffirmed CSUSB's commitment to equity, student success, and the advancement of Latinx students as a proud Hispanic-Serving Institution.

The student keynote address was delivered by Dr. Pablo Gutierrez, graduate of the Doctor of Education in Educational Leadership program with a Community College/Higher Education concentration. Dr. Gutierrez shared his journey as an immigrant from Mexico City, global education leader, and advocate for Latino and international student success. His keynote emphasized perseverance, faith, mentorship, and the transformative power of education to create opportunity and inspire future generations.

Graduates were presented by:

Dr. Enrique Murillo Jr., Dr. Carmen Beck, Dean Tomás Gómez-Arias, Dr. Bibiana Diaz, Dr. Edna Martinez, and Dr. Lua Lopez Perez as students crossed the stage wearing cultural sashes and sharing personal shout-outs honoring their families, communities, and support systems. Faculty and staff participants included Dr. Rueyling Chuang, Dr. Paz Olivérez, Dr. Sastry G. Pantula, Dr. Leslie Trainor, Dr. Angela Horner, Dr. Christina M. Hassija, Dr. Debora Perez Torres, Prof. Karina Ventura, Dr. Raisa F. Alvarado, and Prof. Victoria Argot Counseling, whose participation reflected the university-wide support for Latinx student success and cultural affirmation.

The ceremony celebrated hundreds of undergraduate, graduate, and doctoral students representing a diverse range of academic disciplines across the university, reflecting the depth, excellence, and diversity of the CSUSB Latinx community. The ceremony was made possible through the support of numerous campus divisions, organizations, and partners including:

Academic Success and Graduate Advising, Associated Students Incorporated, Career Center, College of Arts and Letters, College of Education, College of Global & Extended Education, College of Natural Sciences, College of Social and Behavioral Sciences, Division of Human Resources, Division of Student Affairs, Graduate Studies, Jack H. Brown College of Business and Public Administration, Latino Education and Advocacy Days (LEAD), Office of Academic Affairs, President's Office, Printing Services, Santos Manuel Student Union, Special Events, Scheduling & Protocols, Student Assistance in Learning (SAIL) Program, Student Financial Services, and University Police.

The Spring 2026 Latinx Graduate Recognition Ceremony continued ALFSS's longstanding tradition of honoring Latinx student achievement while creating a culturally affirming and deeply meaningful space for graduates and their families. Through music, dance, bilingual celebration, cultural representation, and community, the ceremony celebrated not only academic accomplishment, but the resilience, history, and future of the CSUSB Latinx community.



ALFSS COLLABORRATIVE EVENTS AND CAMPUS COMMITTEES

Latinas Rising Conference:

ALFSS members again collaborated with the Division of Student Affairs to host the 5th Annual Latinas Rising Conference which was took place Friday, November 7th from 8:30 am – 3:30 pm in the Obershaw/Alumni Center. ALFSS Student Representative, Aryanna Ruiz, served as a student panelist during the conference sharing her experience and identity as a Latina while also being a college student. Dra. Aurora Vilchis again served on the planning committee developing the conference theme, schedule and helped coordinate the table facilitators who guided discussions in small groups after each keynote. ALFSS Vice President, Dra. Stacey Ortiz, ALFSS Secretary Monica Baeza and Director of Fundraising and Scholarship, Breanna Deadman, all served as table facilitators the day of the conference. During the lunch resource fair, ALFSS President Iwona Contreras, hosted an information table about the different opportunities to get involved with ALFSS from membership to upcoming events. The conference celebrated Latina stories, highlighted identity, values, and the journeys that shape the Latina experience. Registration was free for students and meals were provided by the Division of Student Affairs. The event was well attended with approximately 100 CSUSB students, faculty, and staff in attendance.

SMSU Collaboration

The Santos Manuel Student Union and ALFSS partnered to create and host the Festival de Calaveras display in SMSU South, showcasing hand-crafted calaveras created by members of the CSUSB and surrounding community. The display celebrated Día de los Muertos through art, remembrance, and cultural expression, while also bringing visibility to the creativity and traditions of the community. Through this collaboration, SMSU and ALFSS provided a welcoming space for students, staff, faculty, and visitors to engage with the calaveras, honor loved ones, and support the event's scholarship fundraising efforts.



ALFSS COLLABORRATIVE EVENTS AND CAMPUS COMMITTEES

ALFSS Bienvenida - Collaborative Partnership with Hispanic Heritage Month Events

The ALFSS Bienvenida served as a collaborative effort between the Association of Latino Faculty, Staff, and Students (ALFSS) and the Hispanic Heritage Month (HHM) Committee, demonstrating the value of partnerships in fostering a welcoming and inclusive campus environment. Through coordinated planning, shared outreach efforts, and event promotion, both groups worked together to create a meaningful kickoff event that celebrated the beginning of the academic year while highlighting the importance of Hispanic Heritage Month. The event welcomed 182 guests, including students, faculty, staff, administrators, alumni, and community members, reflecting the strong interest in building connections and celebrating Latino culture across campus.

This partnership strengthened engagement by bringing together diverse members of the university community in a space centered on culture, belonging, and collaboration. The HHM Committee's participation in the program, including remarks on upcoming heritage month events, helped establish continuity between Bienvenida and the broader Hispanic Heritage Month celebration. By leveraging the strengths and resources of both organizations, the event achieved record attendance, increased awareness of upcoming cultural programs, and reinforced a shared commitment to student success, community building, and the celebration of Hispanic and Latino heritage at CSUSB.



ALFSS ACCOUNTS

Trust Account (SF061-B0100/I0201) *This includes Latino Grad Exp. and Rev.*

Beginning Budget:	\$55,415.73
Revenue:	\$29,965.00
Expenses:	(2,967.12)

Remaining Budget: \$82,413.61

Scholarship Account (P3176-S6300-P309050)

Beginning Budget:	\$16,809.04
Revenue:	\$9,103.40 (Payroll Deductions/Donations)
Admin Expenses:	(480.20)
Expenses:	(10,000.00) (25/26 Disbursements)

Remaining Budget: \$15,432.24

Donations Account (P2385-S6300-P209200)

Beginning Budget:	\$21,555.00
Revenue:	\$1,099.30
Admin Expenses:	(1,596.68)
Expenses:	(54.95)

Remaining Budget: \$21,002.67

State Side Account (SB001-C0301-20265)

Beginning Budget:	\$480.00
Revenue:	\$2,680.00
Expenses:	(45.21)

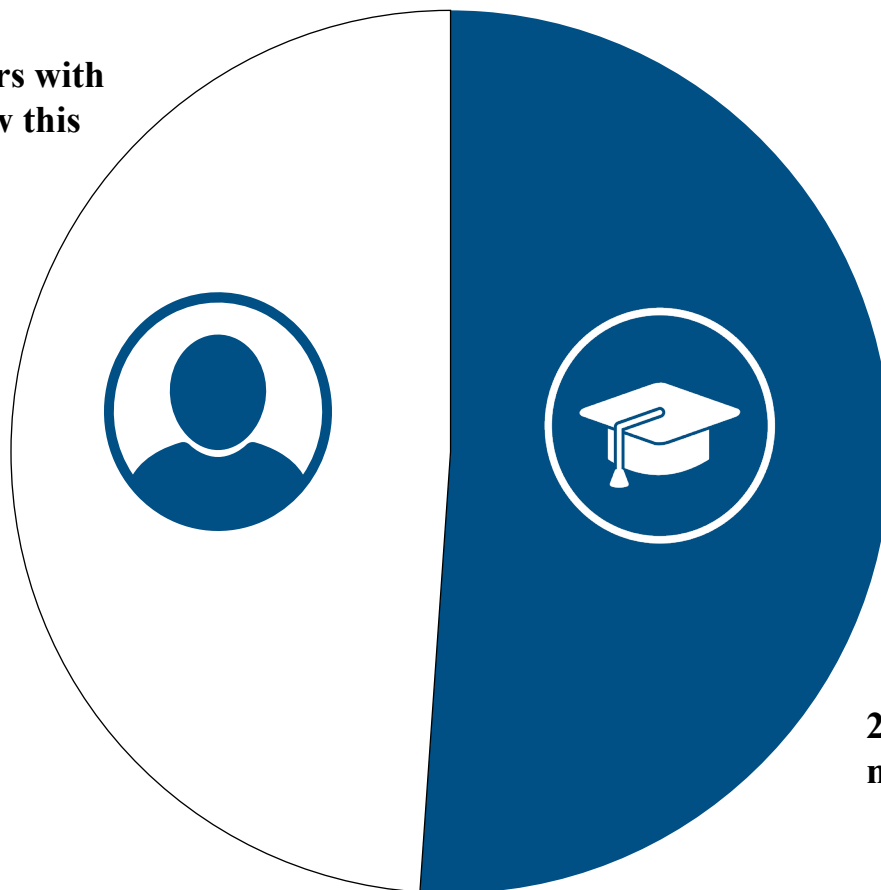
Remaining Budget: \$3,114.79

ALFSS 2025-2026 Membership

Membership

For the 2026-2027 academic year, the ALFSS members numbers included:

**26 Regular members with
4 of them being new this
academic year**



**27 New students
members**

This totaled 51 active dues paying members of the association. Many members paid their annual \$20 one time membership fee however, Regular faculty and staff members have the option to sign up for an automatic payroll deduction. This year our membership includes our 20 members on automatic payroll deduction with varying monthly contributions which represented approximately \$4,000 in annual contributions to the scholarship fund to be allocated for the 2027-2028 academic year.

Thank You!



The 2025-2026 ALFSS Board would like to thank you for your continued support and contributions to our organization.

We hope you become an ALFSS member through auto pay/payroll deduction option.



**ASSOCIATION OF LATINO
FACULTY, STAFF & STUDENTS**

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, SAN BERNARDINO

