



Academic Affairs
Office of the Provost and Vice President

December 13, 2018

Dear Colleagues,

After a national search that identified several outstanding candidates, I am pleased to announce that **Dr. Jake Zhu** has accepted my offer to serve as the **next dean of our Palm Desert Campus**. He will continue his role as Interim Dean of the College of Education through the balance of the academic year before starting his new position on July 1, 2019.

He has held a number of positions during his tenure at CSUSB, including chair of the Department of Information and Decision Sciences, and associate dean of the Jack H. Brown College of Business and Public Administration. A 2016-17 American Council on Education (ACE) Fellow, his project focus was on implementing a campus-wide student success initiative.

Dr. Zhu's other accolades include the co-founding of the university's Cyber Security Center in 2006, as well as serving as co-director of the center from 2006-2009. He brings a strong academic background, having been engaged with various initiatives, including GI 2025 and the Q2S conversion. He implemented and directed the JHBC's strategic plan, resulting in high impact practices that led to an increased four-year graduation rate from 18 percent to 26 percent in one year, the highest among all colleges within the university.

I would like to thank Dr. Bruce Shepherd, who has served admirably as the interim dean since August. His term of service will conclude on January 14, 2019. As such, I have asked Vice President for University Advancement Dr. Ron Fremont to suspend his planned retirement and serve as the interim dean until Jake comes aboard. Ron's long term relationship with our desert friends and colleagues, both on and off campus, makes him an ideal fit to support the team in the months ahead.

Let me also thank the search committee, under the leadership of Juan Delgado, for their terrific work with this important charge. They put in a great deal of time and effort in identifying some exceptional candidates and the entire campus owes them our appreciation.

Please join me in congratulating Jake on his new appointment.

Best,
Shari

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Shari McMahan, Ph.D.
Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs