



CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, SAN BERNARDINO
Office of the President

*PRESIDENT'S REPORT
ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL
WEDNESDAY – FEBRUARY 3, 2021*

Welcome to the new year and the inaugural spring semester at CSUSB. I hope that your holidays were relaxing and refreshing.

The continuing pandemic previously led the CSU to announce that our spring semester would be virtual. I thank everyone for your ongoing efforts to convert your work and responsibilities to an online/virtual format for these additional months and to ensure that our students are able to move forward with their academic progress even in the midst of these obstacles. We continue to monitor the situation and keep our COVID-19 website up-to-date: <https://www.csusb.edu/covid-19>.

The situation in Southern California, and in the Inland Empire, continues to be worrying. With our ongoing goal to keep our students, faculty and staff as safe as possible, we have made the following determinations:

- Our May 22nd Commencement exercises will be virtual. We will offer an opportunity for all our graduates to return to campus, at no extra charge, to take part in a physical ceremony the next time we are able to safely hold an in-person Commencement.
- Our Summer Session will be virtual. Making this announcement now will provide sufficient lead time for planning.
- We are extending our moratorium on events through August 15, 2021. This encompasses all university activities as well as third-party events scheduled to take place on the San Bernardino and Palm Desert campuses. Events covered by the moratorium include, but are not limited to, in-person conferences, workshops, meetings, camps, banquets, receptions, luncheons and dinners. The moratorium is subject to change or further extension based on pandemic conditions.

Formal communications will be circulated to the campus community on all of the above.

In addition, Chancellor Joseph Castro has stated publicly that the CSU's goal is to return to as much in-person instruction and campus life in the fall as possible. However, final determinations as to specific details will be based on the vaccine rollout and local conditions, and he has asked for

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campuses to remain flexible in their planning and to keep following the science along with the central CSU administration.

- **CSU Wang Family Excellence Award**

Congratulations to Cynthia Crawford, professor of psychology, on being selected for this year's prestigious California State University Wang Family Excellence Award as the Outstanding Faculty Innovator in Student Success. This is a competitive award among the very best of the CSU's faculty, systemwide, and is a tremendous recognition of her "exemplary achievements and contributions to the California State University." She formally received the award at the January 26, 2021 virtual ceremony, attended by the CSU Board of Trustees and the system presidents.

- **Black History Month**

I invite our faculty, staff and students to take advantage of the full list of events assembled here at CSUSB in recognition of Black History Month. The programming is virtual this year, and details can be accessed at <https://www.csusb.edu/bhm/events-calendar>. The events will be presented in a wide variety of online formats (from panels to speakers to films) and may serve as resources for spring semester courses. Please note that the annual Pioneer Breakfast, because of the online format, will take place on February 26 at 10 a.m., re-imagined as the "Pioneer Scholarship Celebration." This programming is the result of departments and organizations all across the campus, involving faculty, staff and students. My appreciation to everyone for your hard work and preparation for this month's schedule, and to Jacob Chacko, assistant director of diversity and inclusion in the Cross Cultural Center, along with his staff, for assembling all the details on the website.

- **California State Budget**

Governor Gavin Newsom has released his proposed budget for 2021-22. There will be months of negotiation with the legislature before the budget is approved this summer. As always, the budget allocation for the CSU has a direct impact on us here at CSUSB. As I stated in my January 13 message, the Governor's proposed spending plan provides \$144.5 million in new ongoing funding and an additional \$225 million one-time funding. While the Governor's budget provides a modest increase for the CSU, it falls short of the \$556 million in ongoing funding requested by the CSU Trustees to restore the budget reductions in last year's operating budget.

Between now and June 15, CSUSB will join with CSU Trustees and Chancellor Castro to advocate for full support of the Trustees' budget request to ensure our campus has the necessary funding to best serve our students, faculty and staff. Opportunities to engage in campus advocacy efforts will be communicated as the budget process unfolds.

- **Quarterly Grants and Contracts Report**

The Office of Academic Research has released the mid-year report of governmental (federal state, and local government) grant proposal submissions and awards. CSUSB submitted 52 proposals (49 from Academic Affairs and 3 from Student Affairs), totaling \$25,603,301. There were 69 grant awards in total (61 in AA and 8 in SA), totaling \$29,455,758.

My congratulations to our faculty for continuing this outstanding work in the midst of the ongoing pandemic, along with the efforts of the staff in the Office of Academic Research, the Office of Research Development, the Office of Research and Sponsored Programs and the Office of Sponsored Programs Administration. My additional thanks to Dorota Huizinga, associate provost for research and dean of graduate studies, and Cynthia Crawford, OAR's faculty director.

- **Conversations on Race and Policing Series**

Members of our faculty, staff and students have continued to work for months on the ongoing "Race and Policing" series; the events are typically scheduled for Wednesday afternoons. As an institution of higher education, part of our mission is to engage with the present moment and provide our campus community with access to the data and experts to inform our understanding and help direct our responses. The Race and Policing series does that, consistently. It is an extraordinary project and an outstanding offering by our campus not only to our students, faculty and staff but also, through its virtual nature, to our larger community. My thanks to Professors Mary Texeira and Jeremy Murray for their leadership, along with Robie Madrigal (public affairs/communication specialist, Pfau Library) and students Marlo Brooks and Yvette Relles-Powell on this important and timely initiative.

- **Palm Desert Campus Updates**

The PDC, under the leadership of Dean Jake Zhu, continues to strengthen its services to the Coachella Valley. While we are offering virtual instruction across both campuses during the pandemic, PDC students currently have access to the full range of courses offered by CSUSB online without having to come to San Bernardino. I also applaud the Street Medicine program for the funding they received this past fall from the RAP Foundation, the Verizon Foundation and the Desert Healthcare District & Foundation, with the goal of enabling Street Medicine to continue providing healthcare services to the homeless and unsheltered populations in the Coachella Valley; they also provided a drive-through flu shot clinic at the Salton Sea in November. My thanks to Terese Burch, chair of the department of nursing, for her leadership along with Diane Vines, lecturer in nursing, and Genevieve Marruffo, PDC Street Medicine representative.

- **CSUSB in the Community: Theatre Arts Mathematical Mayhem**

Professor Johanna Smith has converted her touring production for local elementary schools into a distance learning experience for younger audiences. Mathematical Mayhem is available for virtual classrooms and from home without charge. I am deeply appreciative of the way that members of this campus give back to our community, and I am delighted by initiatives such as this one which continue in that tradition.

- **Fourth Annual Rabbi Hillel Cohn Endowed Lecture Series**

This annual lecture series on the Contemporary Jewish Experience is scheduled for Thursday, February 18, at 6:00 p.m. and will feature Jane Eisner giving a virtual talk on "From the Holocaust to Hate Groups: How American Media Covers Anti-Semitism."

Ms. Eisner is an accomplished journalist, educator, non-profit leader and public speaker who is currently director of academic affairs at the Graduate School of Journalism at Columbia University, overseeing the Master of Arts program. For more than a decade, she was the editor-in-chief of the influential Jewish national news organization Forward, the first woman to hold the position.

Please RSVP to invitereply@csusb.edu; the Zoom link will be sent the week of the event.

- **Super Sunday 2021**

The CSU will continue its annual outreach program to the California Black community through pre-recorded presentations by CSU presidents at Black churches throughout the state and CSUSB will continue its participation. This year's theme is "Access, Affordability and Social Mobility." All Super Sunday talking points will share a common message of preparing young people for college and highlighting the accessibility of the CSU, as we support students—from getting them ready to enter college all the way through graduation—with an increased focus on preparation, authentic access, support and completion. This is an outreach event I look forward to each year.