



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

*PRESIDENT'S REPORT*  
*ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL*  
*WEDNESDAY – APRIL 7, 2021*

March kicked off with the first official (virtual) visit to CSUSB by our new CSU Chancellor, Dr. Joseph I. Castro. His March 3, 2021 schedule included meetings involving all sectors of the campus community, providing him with an opportunity to get to know who we are; learn of some of our accomplishments, initiatives and ongoing concerns; and also answer questions. I provided him with updates on: our transition to semesters; our enrollment as of census; the status of our strategic plan; the President's Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Board and our in-progress DEI Strategic Plan; and the launch of our Post-Pandemic Steering Committee.

- **WASC Re-Accreditation:** We had a WASC "offsite" virtual Team Visit on February 25, 2021, where I provided updates on the President's DEI Board and DEI Strategic Plan, the CSUSB Strategic Plan, the GI 2025 Initiative and the Post-Pandemic Steering Committee.
- **Open Forums:** In February, the Provost and I met separately with the Jack Brown College of Business and Public Administration, the College of Arts and Letters and the College of Education, both to share data and accomplishments and also to hear concerns from faculty and staff specific to their respective college. In March, I met with the College of Natural Sciences, the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences and the Pfau Library. In April, I will meet with the Palm Desert Campus. My thanks to the deans for hosting these important discussions.

PDC: April 29, 1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.

- **Book Publishing Assistance:** The College of Arts and Letters sponsored an informative panel on March 5, 2021, to assist faculty members with the tools and guidance to publish their books. Moderated by College of Arts and Letters Dean Rueyling Chuang, panelists included Parastou Feizzaringhalam (interim associate dean, College of Arts and Letters), Fred Jandt (former dean of the PDC and professor emeritus of communication studies), Jennifer Abbott (commissioning editor, literary studies, Taylor and Francis/Routledge) and Lily Norton (acquisitions editor, speech/mass communication/media studies, SAGE Publications). Topics included best practices for

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5500 UNIVERSITY PARKWAY, SAN BERNARDINO, CA 92407-2393

crafting a book proposal and writing a book-length manuscript, from the perspective of both authors and editors. This is another example of professional advancement for faculty being delivered by our colleges.

- **Womxn's History Month:** I was pleased to participate in the kick-off event for Womxn's History Month, sponsored by the Women's Resource Center on March 2, 2021. Another key event was a screening of video segments from the documentary "Route 66 Women," which looks at the history of San Bernardino, women of color and Route 66. Documentarian Katrina Parks and alumnus Mark Ocegueda (currently a Mellon Gateway Postdoctoral Fellow in the department of history at Brown University) will help lead the discussion. My thanks to Marc Robinson (assistant professor, department of history) for organizing the Route 66 event. I invite you to attend the annual Womxn's Leadership Conference scheduled to take place on April 9, 2021.
- **Student Research:** On February 12, 2021, CSUSB held its competition for students to participate in the CSU's April Student Research Competition. Student engagement in research along with the quality of that research is the result of the teaching and mentoring of our faculty. My best wishes to the ten students selected to compete later this spring and to their faculty advisors who are assisting them in their preparation.
- **Palm Desert Campus Updates:** The PDC continues to host community-centered events.
  - The first was the February 4, 2021 annual Academic WorldQuest competition in which Palm Desert High School had its fourth consecutive win and will advance to the national event in Washington, D.C. in April. WorldQuest is a team game testing world affairs knowledge. This year's topics included: U.S.-Russia Relations; Preventing Extremism in Fragile States; Oceans: The World's Garbage Dump; Brexit and the EU; and China's Belt and Road Initiative.
  - The second is the Unforgettables Foundation's March 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Children and Families in Crisis Conference. This year's topic focused on the dangers of screen time on children with remarks from Anthony Silard (associate professor, department of public administration).
- **CSUSB in the Community - Black Church Media Project:** A team of CSUSB faculty, students, staff and administrators is working to assist historic Black houses of worship with streaming their services during the COVID-19 pandemic. Lacey Kendall (lecturer, department of communication studies), based on the Palm Desert Campus, is spearheading this initiative.
- **CSUSB in the Community - RAFFMA@Home:** As California and the nation shifted to a more virtual world due to the pandemic, the Robert and Frances Fullerton Museum of Art launched an innovative online version of its collection to ensure continued accessibility. RAFFMA@Home recently won a CSUSB President's Team Achievement Award for its outstanding efforts. Its current special exhibit, running through April 10, is "Personal to Political: Celebrating the African American Artists of Paulson Fontaine

Press.” Launched during Black History Month, the artwork on display brings to the IE the work of Black artists who have been key to shaping contemporary art in the Bay Area and more widely. I urge you to take advantage of this viewing opportunity.