We are wrapping up our spring semester, with a number of achievements under our belt as a campus. My appreciation to all our faculty, staff and administrators for your continued excellence in educating our students and promoting their success. Each year brings its challenges and its achievements. It has been a good year to be your colleague and partner in building the success of Cal State San Bernardino.

- **Men’s Basketball Team:** I would like to begin my report with a shout-out to our Men’s Basketball Team which has performed superbly this academic year. They made it all the way to an NCAA Division II semifinal game—the Final Four!—before they were defeated by the No. 1 team in the country, Nova Southeastern. Nevertheless, they set a program record for most wins in a season. What an outstanding group of student-athletes!

Here are their key accomplishments for the 2022-23 academic year:
- Only team with 30+ wins in CSUSB History.
- Only team to 3,000 points in CSUSB History.
- Undefeated at home (11-0).
- Four CCAA Players of the Week.
- Five All-CCAA Selections, including four First Team.
- CCAA Defender of the Year.
- CCAA Newcomer of the Year.
- CCAA Coach of the Year.
- CCAA Regular Season Champions.
- CCAA Tournament Champions.
- Ended No. 4 Point Loma’s 25-game win streak in front of a sold-out crowd at their home.
- NCAA West Region Champions.
- All-time CSUSB three-point record holder.
- Back-to-back All-American.
- NCAA Final Four Appearance.

My congratulations to all the players for their hard work this year and to the department of Athletics.
• **Spring Commencement Schedule:** Spring Commencement will be in-person on May 19-20, 2023, at the Toyota Arena in Ontario. Graduates from both the San Bernardino and Palm Desert campuses will be recognized. The schedule is as follows:
  o Friday, May 19 @ 2PM and 7PM: College of Social and Behavioral Sciences
  o Saturday, May 20 @ 9AM: College of Arts and Letters and James R. Watson and Judy Rodriguez Watson College of Education
  o Saturday, May 20 @ 2PM: Jack H. Brown College of Business and Public Administration
  o Saturday, May 20 @ 7PM: College of Natural Sciences

• **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. Since my March report, the Outstanding Faculty Advisor went to Dr. Sharon Pierce (Public Administration) on March 14, 2023; the Outstanding Professor Award went to Dr. Monty Van Wart (Public Administration) on April 10, 2023; and the Outstanding Lecturer award went to Ms. Lacey Kendall (Communication Studies) on May 2, 2023. These faculty awards are a wonderful CSUSB tradition.

• **CSU Trustee Visits:** The San Bernardino campus hosted a joint visit by CSU Student Trustee Maria Linares (her first time here) and CSU Faculty Trustee Romey Sabalius (a return visit for him) on Thursday, March 23, 2023. We were able to provide them with an in-depth look at a few of our programs and gave them the opportunity to interact with students, faculty and staff. I am glad for this opportunity to bring our Trustees to see our campus physically, and not simply through a screen.

• **Quarterly Grants and Contracts Report:** The Office of Academic Research (OAR) has released the third quarter report of governmental (federal, state and local) grant proposal submissions and awards. Between July 2022 and March 2023, CSUSB submitted 110 new proposals (105 from Academic Affairs [AA] and 5 from Student Affairs [SA]), totaling $69,459,117. There were 132 new and continuing grant awards in total (117 in AA and 15 in SA), totaling $43,565,977.

  My congratulations to our faculty for continuing this outstanding work, along with the efforts of OAR, the Office of Research Development, the Office of Research and Sponsored Programs and the Office of Sponsored Programs Administration. My additional thanks for their leadership to Dorota Huizinga, associate provost for research and dean of graduate studies, and Cynthia Crawford, OAR’s faculty director.

• **Specific Grants, Funding and Awards:**
  o **Federal $2 Million Check to CSUSB Master of Science in Physician Assistant Program:** On April 21, 2023, U.S. Rep. Pete Aguilar formally provided CSUSB with a $2 million check in federal funding for the MSPA program. Aguilar and U.S. Sen. Alex Padilla secured the money as part of the fiscal 2023 appropriations package. The ceremony was held at the Yasuda Center, which will be renovated
to serve the program. CSUSB’s MSPA is scheduled to launch in August 2025 with a class of 40 students.

- **State of California’s Department of Health Care Access and Information $2.25 Million Grant to Support the School of Social Work:** This award will include the creation of a master’s in social work program at the PDC, to begin in fall 2024. California has noted a significant deficit in trained social workers statewide, specifically in the area of behavioral health, and this funding comes from the California Social Work Education Capacity Expansion Program.

- **Department of Energy Grant to Support Student Research at the Pacific Northwest National Lab:** CSUSB’s physics and astronomy students are the beneficiaries of a one-year $125,000 U.S. Department of Energy grant to engage in research on high energy physics at the Pacific Northwest National Lab. Five CSUSB students will be able to travel to PNNL for summer research along with Sara Callori, associate professor of physics, with the opportunity to continue their research remotely during the fall semester. My congratulations to Dean Sastry Pantula, Physics and Astronomy Chair Javier Torner and Associate Professor Callori for securing this grant and outstanding opportunity for our students.

- **Year One of CAMP Grant at the PDC:** CSUSB and OneFuture Coachella Valley received a U.S. Department of Education 5-year, $2.3 million College Assistance Migrant Program or CAMP grant. The grant’s focus is on students who are migrant/seasonal farm workers, or their children, through their first year of college so that they continue to their second year. Year One of the grant has just been completed at the Palm Desert Campus. The PDC’s CAMP director and staff continue to work with key community partners to reach as many students as possible. This includes working closely with Migrant Educational Programs at local K-12 school districts. My thanks to Dean Jake Zhu, program director Flavio Paniagua-Navarro, along with all the PDC’s faculty and staff who are engaging in this important and vital program. The farmworker community was deeply impacted by the pandemic, and this CAMP grant is one means of addressing this need.

- **Goldwater Award:** Chemistry undergraduate David Murillo is a 2023 Barry Goldwater Scholar, the first at CSUSB in several decades. “The Goldwater Scholarship Program, one of the oldest and most prestigious national scholarships in the natural sciences, engineering, and mathematics in the United States, seeks to identify, encourage, and financially support college sophomores and juniors who show exceptional promise of becoming this Nation’s next generation of research leaders in these fields.” David hopes to become a professor of Chemistry.
My congratulations to David, professor Renwu “John” Zhang, Chemistry and Biochemistry Chair Kimberley Cousins and members of the department, along with College of Natural Sciences Dean Sastry Pantula on this tremendous recognition and opportunity. My appreciation as well to the Offices of Academic Research and Student Research for their work in supporting research at CSUSB.

- **12th Annual Meeting of the Minds:** CSUSB’s 12th annual Meeting of the Minds student research symposium took place on Thursday, April 13, 2023. This is a terrific annual event celebrating the outstanding scholarly and creative accomplishments of both our undergraduate and graduate students. We know that participating in projects such as these, and building engagement between faculty and students, is a booster of student success. My congratulations to all the student participants and their faculty mentors, and my thanks to the Office of Student Research for holding this important event.

- **Philanthropic Foundation Board of Directors March Retreat:** The PFBOD held its annual retreat on Saturday, March 25, 2023. The primary focus was the ongoing comprehensive campaign, but they were also presented with an overall update on the academic year-to-date as well as the continuing enrollment challenges that CSUSB faces, along with fellow institutions of higher education across the nation.

- **CSUSB Agreement (MOU) with Rialto Unified School District:** CSUSB and Rialto USD signed an MOU on March 15, 2023, to create Teach Rialto. The program, which will launch in 2023-24 with Rialto USD 9th graders, will provide these students with the study program and support to enable them to graduate CSUSB-ready. The aim is for them to earn their B.A. and a teaching credential at CSUSB and return to teach in Rialto USD. The additional hope is that Teach Rialto will serve as a model for other school districts to emulate.

- **Palm Desert Campus Updates:**
  - The PDC held its annual Hospitality Management fundraising gala on March 5, 2023. Over 160 guests attended the “New York, New York”-themed event. The gala serves as both a fundraising opportunity for the program and, as a component of the hospitality management curriculum, also trains students on planning and mounting a large-scale event.
  - The City of Palm Desert honored interim assistant dean of student engagement with “Dr. Avisinia Rodriguez Day” on March 23rd. The city celebrated her leadership and service to the community.
  - The campus enjoyed a visit by representatives from Kansai University of International Studies in Japan. They were meeting with hospitality management program members at both the PDC and the College of the Desert.
  - CSUSB Palm Desert Campus nursing students and faculty participated in the 2023 California Care Force Clinic at the Empire Polo Grounds in Indio, where they volunteered in triage. All medical, dental and vision services were provided for free to members of the community.
The PDC’s annual Snow Day took place on March 9th. It was an opportunity for students, faculty and staff to take a break from classes and work-related activities to enjoy games, giveaways, food and a live DJ from Paws Radio. Students also had the opportunity to learn about the various CSUSB services available to support them on their educational journey.

The PDC held a Zero Tolerance Day event on March 31, 2023, with the title: “Zero Tolerance: A Different Approach to Preventing School Shootings.”

The PDC held a showcase on February 23, 2023, to celebrate student life in the areas of creative arts, scholarship and engagement on the campus. The PDC Faculty Scholarly Research and Creative Activities Committee and the Offices of Student Research and Community Engagement served as the hosts.

The PDC held a Career Showcase on March 2, 2023, for students seeking a job or internship. The events provided them with an opportunity to connect with local businesses and organizations.

- **Annual César E. Chavez Memorial Breakfast**: The Chicano Latino Caucus of San Bernardino County once again hosted a César E. Chavez Memorial Breakfast at CSUSB with an audience of government, civic and community leaders on Saturday, April 1, 2023. It was a sold-out event and has become a highly impactful gathering in our region. I was proud to be able to attend and deliver the welcome.

- **Asian Pacific Islander Desi American Heritage Month (April)**: The APIDA Heritage Month Committee prepared a robust calendar of events for 2023’s month-long celebration. Nationally, this month is celebrated in May, but we celebrate it in April because of our academic calendar. I hope you all took advantage of the various offerings, to attend an event.

- **Rabbi Cohn Lecture**: The campus held its annual Rabbi Cohn Endowed Lecture on the Contemporary Jewish Experience on April 16th. This year’s speaker was Jewish communal service professor emeritus Steven Windmueller. He spoke on “Reflections on a Revolution: Unpacking 21st Century American Judaism.” My thanks to College of Social and Behavioral Sciences Interim Dean Christina Hassija and Vice President of Advancement Robert Nava and their respective staffs for coordinating such a meaningful event for our campus and the surrounding community.

- **DEI Speaker**: I hope you had the opportunity to hear this spring’s DEI speaker, the iconic feminist, educator, social justice activist, speaker and writer Dr. Angela Davis, on April 17th. My thanks to the President’s DEI Board for arranging to bring Dr. Davis to the campus.

- **Other Annual Year-End Events**: Please consider attending the RAFFMA Annual Student Exhibition Reception, on May 18th.

- **Final CSUSB Theatre Performances of 2022-23**: CSUSB is wrapping up the 2022-23 academic year with the family-friendly musical, *Anansi’s Carnival Adventures*, by Alberto
Justiniano, music by Gary Rue. The production will run from April 28 through May 7. Information on how to catch a performance can be found at: https://www.csusb.edu/theatre-arts/csusb-department-theatre-arts-2022-2023-season. Congratulations to Kathryn Ervin for her direction of this new CSUSB production. My thanks to Chair Terry Smith and the department for this past season’s productions.

- **Final Music Department Performances for 2022-23:** The Music Department is wrapping up its 2022-23 season of concerts. I encourage you to try and catch a performance before the academic year ends. Schedules can be found at: https://www.csusb.edu/music/current-productions. My thanks to Interim Chair Lesley Leighton and the department for this past year’s performances.

- **Final Athletic Events for 2022-23:** Coyote Athletics is rounding out the year with competitions in Women’s Track and Field, Softball, Men’s Golf, and Baseball. Consider attending an event before the end of 2022-23 (see https://www.csusbathletics.com/ for details). Our student athletes have had an outstanding year.

- **In Memorium - Dr. Ernie Garcia:** I wish to close my report with a few words on the passing of Dr. Ernie Garcia, one of the founding faculty members of the college which became Cal State San Bernardino. He was a retiree from the College of Education, and previously served on the College of Education Advisory Board and the Art Museum Advisory Board, to list just two of the ways he has supported the Watson College of Education and CSUSB as an institution over his decades of work and engagement as part of our university community. His passion and long-time dream became reality when the Garcia Center for the Arts opened in San Bernardino. It formally received its name on November 16, 2015, to serve as a “home for creatives and art organizations” to create “a sturdy foundation for San Bernardino’s art renaissance.” His was an incredibly richly lived life, which gave so much back. For those who were his students, his colleagues, his friends and his family, his loss leaves an enormous hole. My condolences to all who are grieving his passing.