



MESSAGE FROM THE PROVOST & VICE PROVOST

Dear Colleagues,

As we close out the 2023-24 academic year, we want to take this opportunity to congratulate you on a successful semester. We appreciate your dedication to our students' success! For that, and all you do every day, we thank you! Last week we launched our Long-range Academic Master Plan (LAMP). A huge appreciation to the Task Force led by Professor Rika Yoshii and Vice Provost Oling-Sisay. We look forward to delving into the report further in the Fall and onwards to implement the recommendations as resources become available.

Collectively, you have delivered a large and profoundly strong class of graduates who will go on to positively impact societies. The thousands of students who will walk across the commencement stage is a great reminder of our purpose: student success. In the coming weeks we commence our summer classes and activities, and we look forward to continuing to support our students by making summer course options available.

We have appreciated opportunities to interact with faculty and staff across the division. Those encounters have been most instructive, and we look forward to continuing to enhance such opportunities. The culmination of the academic year is our busiest time filled with all sorts of commitments. We hope that in the quieter summer months you are able to take some time to recharge and engage in self-care. Thank you again for your steadfast commitment to the success of our students.

We wish you a restful, peaceful, and healthy summer.

Thank you for contributing to #ThePowerofCSUSM.

Sincerely,

Carl and Mary O-S



ANNOUNCEMENTS



The Makery

The University Library held a grand opening celebration for the Library's makerspace, called [The Makery](#) on Tuesday, April 23, with a ribbon-cutting followed by an open house. The Makery is located on the 2nd floor of Kellogg Library in an area that used to house the media library.



LAMP Launch

On Tuesday, May 7, the Office of the Provost illuminated the path forward by unveiling its [Long-range Academic Master Plan \(LAMP\)](#) during a luncheon held at the USU Ballroom, themed "Lighting the Future".



Zero Cost Materials Courses

Faculty, are you teaching a class that doesn't require students to purchase any textbooks or course materials? If so, please report your [Zero Cost Course Materials \(ZCCM\) courses](#) to the CALM Team. You can submit your courses by emailing calm@csusm.edu or using the [ZCCM Reporting Form](#).

UPDATES



CoBA Launches Dual Mentorship Programs to Guide Student Success:

CoBA is launching two new mentorship initiatives in the 2024-2025 academic year. The CoBA Career Mentor Program will connect students with alumni and industry professionals for personalized career guidance. A pilot program for seniors will run in Spring 2024. The full program will serve rising juniors, seniors, and MBA students.

The **CoBA Peer Mentor Program** will launch in Fall 2024, pairing new pre-Business and Junior / Senior CoBA students to facilitate the transition of new students to university life. The program will help with retention and enable a successful start for the critical pre-Business stage.

Day of service in honor of César Chávez:

On March 29th, over 120 members of our Cougar Community joined the Department of Service Learning and Civic Engagement for a day of service in honor of César Chávez. In addition to students and collaborators from our MiraCosta Community, 36 members of CSUSM staff, faculty and leadership were in attendance and went out to complete service projects at 9 community organization sites across North County in Oceanside, Vista, Carlsbad, Temecula, and right here in San Marcos! Thank you to all who made it out and exemplified this year's theme – Service, A Lifetime Commitment.

Thank you to First-Year and University Programs Faculty Director, **Marnie Eldridge**, for her volunteer service on the General Education Committee. Her expert knowledge of CSUSM's award-winning First-Year Seminar, a course that closes educational equity gaps, is important to our campus and Senate as we plan to implement the Student Transfer Achievement Reform Act of 2021 and the corresponding changes to CSU General Education. Colleges and departments interested in exploring first-year seminar pathways given the new GE requirements effective fall 2025, feel free to contact Dawn Formo, Dean of Undergraduate Studies.

Faculty Led Student Marketing Agency:

As a Faculty Innovation Fellow for CoBA, **Dr. Rebeca Perren** oversees a pioneering student-run, faculty-led marketing agency, providing pro bono services to regional nonprofits. This innovative model provides students with practical experience and internship credit while assisting nonprofits in need. This semester, the student team improved HandsOn San Diego's online engagement through comprehensive campaigns, optimized Google ads, launched targeted social media ads, and drove email-marketing strategies. Additionally, in a collaborative effort with Homeland Security and Invent2Prevent, students developed an app integrating exercise and therapy to support trauma-impacted youth. This project highlights the blend of educational innovation and community service. **The students will present their impactful work at the CSUSM Innovation Hub on May 13 from noon to 2 p.m.** (open to the community).



The **University Assessment Council (UAC)** met on April 12 to talk about programmatic assessment for learning. All four colleges were represented and “best practices” were shared by **Dr. Grant Muagututia** from the Liberal Studies program, **Dr. Nancy Caine** from the MA in Psychological Science program, and **Dr. Brooke Soles** and **Dr. Audrey Paredes** from the Joint Doctorate in Educational Leadership program. Organized in 2014 and charged with leading/coordinating assessment practices across campus, the UAC is made up of faculty representing all academic majors and coordinated through the Office of Academic Programs

The **Office of Academic Advising** has followed up with our strategic planning by beginning 2024 with a focus on professional development and team-building, given the recent additions to our team. The entire office recently engaged in a facilitated team retreat, which included a training on DISC styles offering insights to our team dynamics and areas of opportunity based on natural dispositions. OAA was also able to send a contingency to the regional NACADA conference in San Jose, partaking in workshops on advising and assessment. A sizeable contingent participated in Cougar Blue Day, fielding advising questions on our services and commitment to student success.



This semester, the Innovation Hub hosted a competition challenging students to "Reimagine Higher Education" by solving a specific problem. With thanks to **Dr. Matt Atherton** for integrating the challenge into his Social Sciences capstone course, we received 59 ideas for how to improve the college experience, including 5 submissions from students outside of Dr. Atherton's class. On April 18, the top 5 finalists were invited to an event in the Innovation Hub to expand on their ideas and the top 3 won cash prizes to help bring their idea to life. You can learn more about the winners [here](#). The topic for next semester's challenge will be announced on the Innovation Hub website before this semester ends.

CSTEM Hosts Systems & Industrial Engineering Summit:

On April 4, The College of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics hosted 45 engineering employers and advocates to discuss regional demand for Systems Engineers and Industrial Engineers. Along with Dean Trischman, Provost Kemnitz, and Chief Community Engagement Officer Prado-Olmos, guests from the San Diego Regional Economic Development Corporation and the University of Southern California's Daniel J. Epstein Department of Industrial & Systems Engineering led attendees through exercises to define the fields, understand the demand for skills and positions, and to give us their opinions on what classes would be important to them in this major that often blends business courses with an engineering foundation. From here, CSTEM will gather more input and work with CoBA faculty to start the program proposal. The new Integrated Science & Engineering Building and support for faculty positions will be critical to the success of this program.

CSTEM Research & Design Day:

CSTEM hosted its inaugural All-College Research & Design Day on May 6, 2024. This was an opportunity for CSTEM students across all departments to present their senior projects, final projects, capstone projects, research posters, oral presentations, physical demonstrations, etc.

The projects cover all disciplines including Biology, Biotechnology, Chemistry & Biochemistry, Computer Science, Cybersecurity, Electrical Engineering, Mathematics, Physics, Software Engineering, Virtual Reality, and Wildfire Science.

Learning & Tutoring Services (LTS) is excited to welcome **Allison Reyes** to the role of Associate Director of LTS for Writing Support! Allison has worked with CSUSM Housing for the past few years and is enthusiastic about this transition to oversee the Writing Center.

Learning & Tutoring Services congratulates and thanks **Paulina Coronado** for stepping into the role of Interim Associate Director of LTS for STEM Support! Paulina has been with LTS and the STEM Success Center for 7 years, 5 as student staff and 2 as professional staff.

San Diego Union-Tribune's spring 2024 arts preview:

Theatre Arts department chair **Maria Patrice Amon** was recently featured as the cover story in the San Diego Union-Tribune's spring 2024 arts preview. The article written by Pam Kragen tells the origin of how Amon got inspired to pursue her version of storytelling through theatre. She recently directed "Pásale Pásale" on campus. The show then moved to the La Jolla Playhouse.



Faculty Cafés by CHABSS Dean's Office:

The CHABSS Dean's Office wrapped up an academic year of collaboration across its many disciplines by hosting monthly Faculty Cafés. The events included dessert and dialogue about a specific topic with all faculty invited to attend. The April café was meeting your DAREIC representatives. The other spring themes were Outreach Grants and The Power of Innovation. The fall themes were College Academic Master Planning, Generative AI and CHABSS Authors.

CoBA Partners with 5 Local Chambers of Commerce:

CoBA launched an inaugural partnership with the business chambers of Carlsbad, Oceanside, San Marcos, Temecula Valley, and Vista to host a networking night in March 2024. The event, part of CoBA's Business Professional Development course (BUS 300), provided students with the opportunity to apply business professionalism concepts in a real world setting. Over 150 Sophomore and Junior CoBA students connected with industry professionals to build new relationships and have meaningful discussion about industry careers. To provide additional learning opportunities, each chamber has extended invitations to CoBA BUS 300 students to participate in chamber networking events.

ACCOLADES



On April 5, OGSR and GRC hosted the **Annual Grad Slam** research communication competition. With 25 undergraduate and graduate student participants spanning all 4 colleges, the event was the highest participated Grad Slam to date. For the first time, Lilly Research Laboratories sponsored the event and sent representatives to judge the competition and meet with our students. **Brendan Boyd** (Biological Sciences) won the Best Undergraduate Presentation, **Shanelle Watkins** (Educational Leadership) won Best Graduate Non-STEM Presentation, and **Poorvi Datta** (Biological Science) won Best Graduate STEM Presentation. We are pleased to share that Shanelle and Poorvi will be advancing to represent CSUSM at the upcoming CSU Wide Grad Slam scheduled for May 3.

The **University Library** has received the [2024 Library Excellence in Access and Diversity \(LEAD\) Award](#) from the largest and oldest diversity and inclusion publication in higher education. The CSUSM Library was featured, along with 55 other recipients, in the [March 2024 issue](#) of INSIGHT Into Diversity magazine.

Josue Navarrete, a Cal State San Marcos computer science student, has received a 2024 Barry Goldwater Scholarship. Navarrete is the third student from CSUSM to ever receive this scholarship. A junior, Navarrete is also a part of [U-RISE](#), a CSUSM program where motivated, undergraduate, underrepresented students majoring in the sciences are prepared to enter and succeed in doctoral studies.

Electrical engineering student **Jazmin Pantoja** was honored with the prestigious President's Citation Award by the San Diego County Engineering Council at its annual awards ceremony on Feb. 19. The recognition is a testament to Pantoja's outstanding leadership and significant contributions to the advancement of the [Tikkun Olam Makers \(TOM\) Club](#), [Society of Women Engineers \(SWE\)](#) and [Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers \(SHPE\)](#).

Kevin Brown Jr., a Cal State San Marcos cellular and molecular biology student, was one of four recipients of the Rising Black Scientist Award from the journal "Cell Press," Cell Signaling Technology and the Elsevier Foundation.

PUBLICATIONS

Business & Economics Librarian Judy Opdahl published "[Embedded information literacy interventions in an experiential business learning capstone.](#)" in *The Journal of Academic Librarianship*, 50(2).

Gerardo Dominguez, Professor of Physics, recently published "Coevolution of phyllosilicate, carbon, sulfide, and apatite in Ryugu's parent body" <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1111/maps.14161>

PRESENTATIONS

Librarians Amanda Kalish, Tricia Lantzy, Jerry Limberg, Lalitha Nataraj, Judy Opdahl, Torie Quiñonez, and Karen Tinajero Vazquez presented "[Keeping our students close, and our data closer: Remaking assessment with relationships at the forefront.](#)" at the California Academic and Research Libraries (CARL-DIG) Fall'23 program on December 1st.

Social Sciences Librarian Lalitha Nataraj was a speaker at the 2nd Annual OIES Symposium "Transforming Higher Education through Ethnic Studies Praxis" held on March 15th at Cal Poly Pomona.