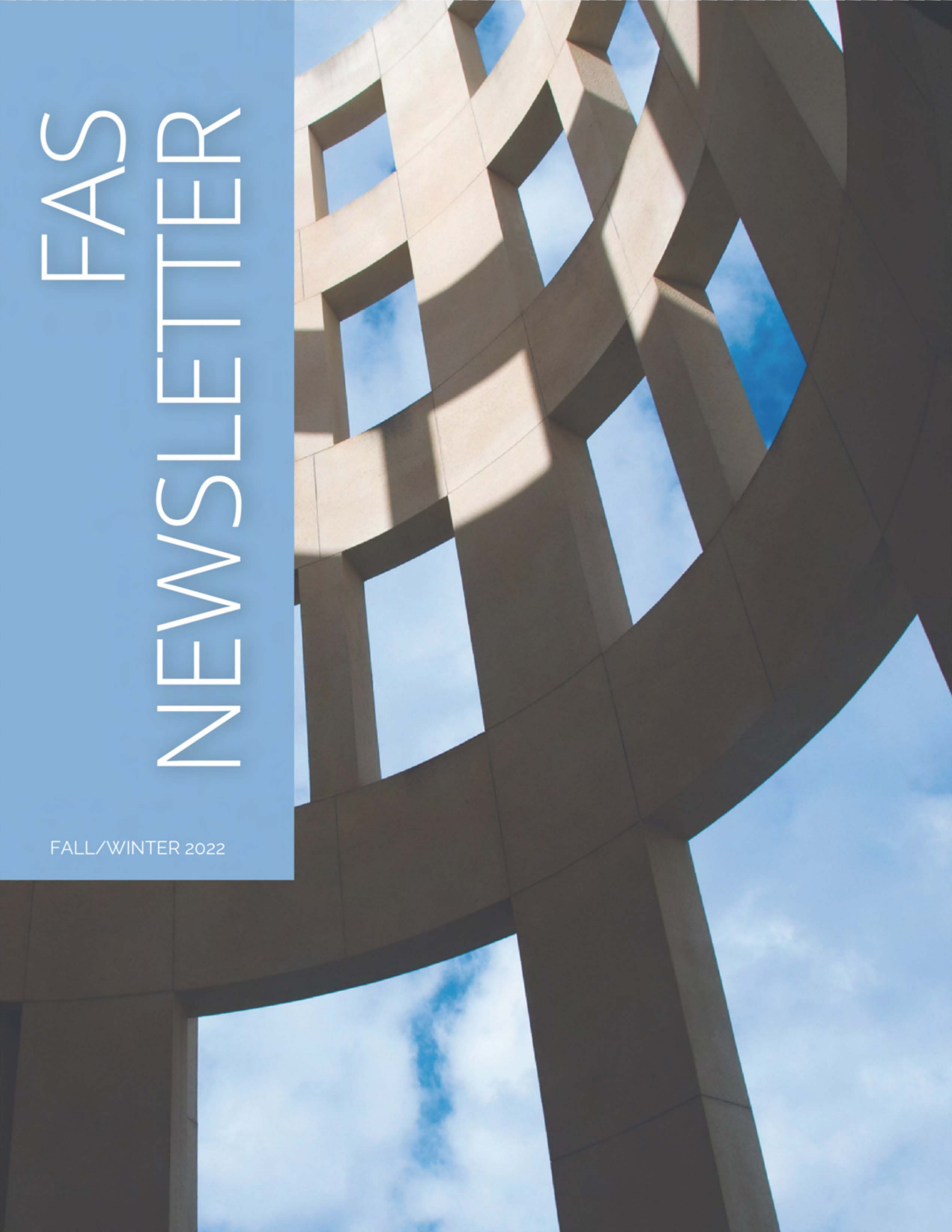


# FAS NEWSLETTER

FALL/WINTER 2022







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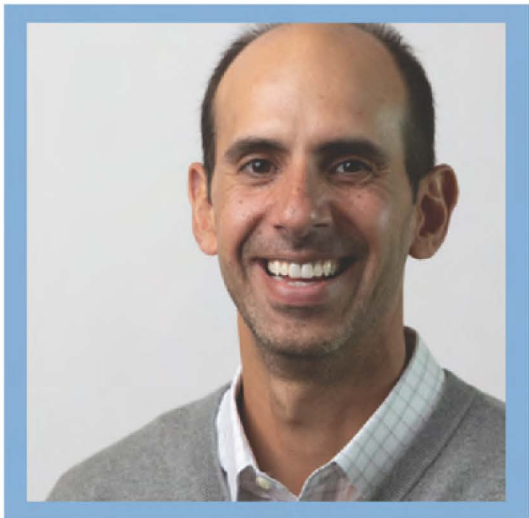
THANK YOU NOTES

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# One on One with....

## ...Matias Farre



### **What were your first impressions of campus?**

There is something special about CSUSM - it didn't take long for me to feel right at home. CSUSM is relatively young compared to other CSU campuses and yet there is a strong sense of pride and commitment from employees. With so many initiatives and projects for expansion, I see CSUSM as a thriving campus with a bright future ahead.

### **How long have you been at CSUSM? Why did you choose this campus?**

I have been at CSUSM since April 2022. While working at other CSU campuses I established great working relationships with colleagues at San Marcos so I didn't hesitate to apply when the opportunity presented.

### **Why were you drawn to this position?**

This position is both challenging and rewarding as I get to support teams that are vital in moving our campus forward. These teams ensure the accuracy and timelines of financial information, process payments to individuals and external entities, maintain and improve financial information systems, serve students by collecting payments and disbursing financial aid, and plan for allocation of resources.

### **What do you like about FAS?**

Our people and organizational culture. There is a genuine interest in collaborating to solve problems and advance the mission of our campus. I like working along so many colleagues who are both highly competent and fun to work with.



### **What is the best part of your job?**

That I have endless opportunities to learn and contribute to meaningful projects and initiatives. I appreciate that in my role I get to interact with all the CSUSM community that includes students, staff, faculty, and external supporters. It is also pretty cool to have one of the best teams in the entire CSU system.

### **Tell us something fun about yourself.**

When I was a teenager (a long time ago) I played the lead guitar for a rock band. The name of the band was "Slow Agony". In hindsight, that's probably what people experienced listening to our music.



# Sustainability Corner



## Sustainability Success this Past Spring

During Earth Month this past spring we had multiple events that brought awareness to our current climate crisis. During our Climate & Justice Teach-In we had over 120 people in attendance. This partnered event brought students and faculty together in a unique virtual discussion about Climate Science, Climate Justice and Indigenous Knowledge. We also had students on a panel discussion, two of whom promoted their up-and-coming podcast called "Read the Climate."

Following the Climate & Justice Teach-In, Service Learning and Civic Engagement hosted a Civic Action Party dedicated to Earth Month and Associated Students, Inc. had an Innovation and Sustainability Panel, both just as interactive and informative as they were fun. There was also an exceptional turnout for The Journey to Zero Waste Fair, a great addition to our Earth Month activities. Roughly 600 campus community members passed through while we gave out free office supplies, utensils, produce bags, clothes, and other items. Kona Ice was provided while the Staff Center participated with a food drive.

## Composting, Coming Soon!

Keep an eye out for new waste bins on campus! We are getting 42 new sets of Bigbelly waste bins, each including landfill, recycle and compost. With the state-wide effort of SB-1383, California's Short-Lived Climate Pollutant Reduction Strategy, we are required to provide composting bins across campus. This change also includes a change in signage. You will notice each bin will have clear waste signage of what can and cannot go into the bin. Not only is this a part of a state-wide effort, it is also integral in getting us to our goal of Zero Waste by 2025. We hope to divert 90-95% of our waste from going to the landfill, and with your help - we will get there!

## Zero Waste by 2025

As part of our Zero Waste efforts, we have also implemented a new form for diverting office supplies from going straight to the landfill. If you or someone in your office is cleaning out their space, getting rid of binders, office organizers, and any other desk-side office supplies you can use [this form](#). One of our sustainability team members will pick up your items and we will make sure it gets reused on campus, donated to Goodwill or properly recycled. To stay posted on any of our sustainability updates, events & news subscribe to our [newsletter](#) here.

## Sustainability Spotlight – Susan O'Connor

This month we are pleased to spotlight Susan O'Connor for her efforts in integrating sustainability into her work here on campus. As the CSUSM Staff Center Director, Susan supports sustainability and our Zero Waste efforts by reaching out and asking about sustainable practices. We appreciate her help in getting us to Zero Waste by 2025. She has also partnered with our Sustainability Program on a Tips and Tricks to Becoming More Sustainable Zoom session for Staff. Susan also regularly shares our events and updates in the Staff Center Newsletter. We look forward to working with Susan and the Staff Center on future events. Thank you Susan!







## VPFAS

### Business Process Improvement (BPI)

The third BPI @ CSUSM training program has concluded after two months of intensive training. This year, the program was taught by our very own **Shannon Honour Shaw** and **Toni Shields**! The cohort consisted of nine employees from every campus division - including **Karleen Miller** (FSO). FAS plans to offer this training program every fall, in hopes of promoting process improvement in all areas of campus. Check the website and sign up for the next class!



### WACUBO Business Management Institute (BMI)

This year we had quite a few representatives at BMI:

**Brianna Madson, Michelle Tanner, Mike Geck, Virginia Berman, Jennifer Martin, Noella Richer, Melanie Hobbs, Lisa McLean, Trina Beckwith, Justin Cox, and Kim Kamrath!**

BMI is a multi-track institute that delivers administrative skills and management concepts for individuals in higher education and has a curriculum applicable across professional career levels within college and university business management.

We are so proud of the members of our division for attending!



# UPDATES & ACCOLADES

## Safety, Health, and Sustainability (SH&S)

SH&S has successfully implemented a new chemical inventory process that uses RFID (Radio Frequency Identification). CSUSM is the first CSU to use this new technology. The project was led by **Everett Kekoa** with lots of help from **Vanessa Rivera**, **Victor Franco**, and our student technician **Ivanel De-Jesus-Alicea**. By utilizing RFID technology, SH&S staff will no longer have to physically pick up every bottle in order to scan it. Not only does this make the annual inventory reconciliation safer, but it also makes it exponentially faster which in turn protects the integrity of certain chemical products which must be kept under cold storage or protected from moisture in the air. Furthermore, the integration of RFID tags with the Risk & Safety Solutions app allows lab personnel to search, add, and remove chemicals from mobile devices such as a smartphone or tablet, making this new inventory system highly convenient as well.



Over the last two years, the University purchased hand sanitizer to keep our students, faculty and staff protected during the COVID-19 pandemic. We recently noticed that a shipment of over 5,000 bottles had expired and could no longer be distributed. Robyn Araiza (CSTEM Chemistry/Biochemistry), Victor Franco Bolanos (CSTEM Equipment Technician), and Dr. Kang Do (CSTEM) volunteered to test the hand sanitizer using an FT-IR (Fourier Transform Infrared Spectroscopy). Next, they ran those samples through the NMR (Nuclear Magnetic Resonance) to verify the amount of alcohol in the hand sanitizer. By doing this difficult testing, the team determined that the hand sanitizer still had the appropriate amount of alcohol (greater than 60%) to be effective. This saved the University thousands of dollars by avoiding hazardous waste disposal costs.



**Cai Steffler** has been busy preparing our University for an emergency with his legendary CPR training! Recently he trained the Provost (pictured right) and our 3rd Shift Custodians - which kept him up way past his bedtime. Way to go Cai - thanks for being such a great team player!

**Vanessa Rivera** went on a tarantula rescue during orientation. When Dennis Kolosov, a faculty member, heard about the adventure - he asked if he could save them as pets. Currently, he has five of them living in his office. He is pictured here (left) with his most recent addition.





# UPDATES & ACCOLADES



**Marissa Acosta** was accepted to be part of Campus Connect. We are excited to see her become more involved in the campus.



**Abbie Knox** just finished her B.S. in Occupational Safety and Health Science with Columbia Southern University. We are so proud of her!



**Ashley North** has recently started working with the Procurement team to support them with various administrative needs.



**Vanessa Rivera** was our employee of the month in April! Our office got a visit from the President! Very exciting!

Congratulations Vanessa!



## Safety, Health, and Sustainability and Facility Services

**Isidro Alvarez** and his Facility Service team are completing a very difficult project behind Markstein hall - converting the water used for the landscaping from drinking water to well water. This took a lot of hard manual labor, planning, and expert knowledge to complete. As we all know, our state is in a severe drought. **Isidro** and **Ricardo Jacobo** found a way to save drinking water and use the University's well system for irrigation. They also discovered a way to connect the piping without digging up the service road behind Markstein, saving the University approx. \$50,000. Please give those guys a shout-out next time you have a cold drink from the hydration stations, they are keeping fresh water in them.



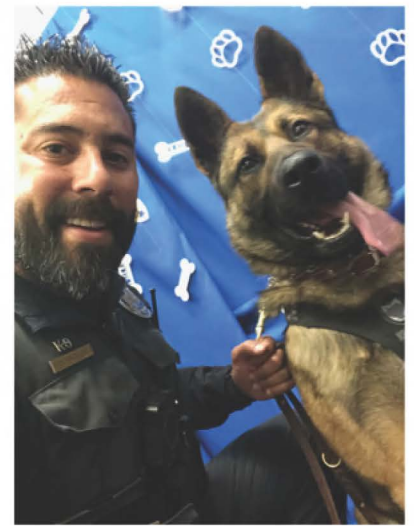


# UPDATES & ACCOLADES

## University Police (UPD)

### Welcome Kg Hans and Kg Kodi!

**Kg Hans** is working with Handler, **Sgt. Angulo** and **Kg Kodi** is working with our new handler, **Officer McClintock**. They have passed their POST certification and have even responded to their first call-out to reference a suspicious package. Hans also assisted with Commencement 2022.



### Audrey Hotaling - Our new Risk Analyst!

Audrey (pictured below) comes to us from San Marcos Unified School District, where she has been working as a Risk Management supervisor. Prior to SMUSD, Audrey spent the bulk of her career in retail settings. Audrey has a strong background in operations management, risk management, loss prevention, and process improvement. She is a CSU alumna, receiving her B.S. from SDSU - I am quite certain she can juggle being both an Aztec and a Cougar!



### Interim Chief Flores

With the retirement of Chief Secka, came the appointment of our new Interim Chief - **Lt Jesus Flores**. One of his first assignments - receiving the Recognizing Excellence Award for Legendary Leader!

Our new Interim Chief has been described as having "a great balance of compassion, while still holding people accountable; the ability to "assume positive intent" until proven otherwise; the ability to make difficult decisions when needed; the ability to be a voice of reason amidst chaos." .



**UPD is always available 24/7/365 via 911, text to 911 or 760-750-4588**



# UPDATES & ACCOLADES

## FACILITIES DEVELOPMENT & MANAGEMENT

### FDM OLYMPICS

With a large sub-division of over 100, it is sometimes challenging to feel like a united team. Hosted for the very first time in August of 2022, this team-building event was a rousing success. The event was developed to give everyone an opportunity to participate. This event gave everyone the opportunity to reconnect and build on those relationships that make FDM successful in serving the campus.





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# UPDATES & ACCOLADES

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## FACILITIES DEVELOPMENT & MANAGEMENT (CONT)

### NEW EMPLOYEES



From Left to Right: Joshua Meyer, Ernesto Luna Sanchez, Corey Banks, Gustavo Arellano, Manuel Molina, Brianna Madson, Garry Rivera, Isaac Lira, Bryan Hammack, Jason Lord (not pictured).

### PROMOTIONS



From Left to Right: Victor Chavez (Assistant Director, Custodial & Grounds), Ariel Villanueva (Assistant Director, Facility Services), Mitch Tran (Manager, Central Plant), Cesar Alumbres (Warehouse Worker), Christopher Cerame (Laborer).

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# UPDATES & ACCOLADES

## FDM ADMINISTRATION

**Strength Finders** - In July all of FDMA met together to participate in Strength's Finder as a team. With all the changes to our team and remote work over the last two years it was important to get to know each other as individual, whole people. We learned, laughed, and came out with a better understanding of how to use our strengths to work together as a team. Highly recommend!

### Annual Shop Safety Inspection

Distribution Services had their annual Shop Safety Inspection completed in June with a repeated result of no findings!! We've always valued the importance of safety in these parts, as reflected in our period of no lost time accidents for over 5,900 days since January 1999. SHS and **George Williams** regularly provide top-notch guidance and support. And we've always appreciated FDM's focus on safety, both as neighbors and now as part of their team. We look forward to our collective continued safety and success.

### Campus Inventory

The Chancellor's Office requires that CSUSM complete a triennial inventory of campus property/tagged assets. This year, **Bart Westbrook**, our Property Control Clerk, is fulfilling that requirement, exploring campus buildings and departments to verify property, equipment, and locations. Feel free to offer up a welcome greeting when you see him!



**Annual Safety Stand-down** (formerly known as the Safety Fair) – Partnering with SH&S, FDM dedicates an entire two days to provide safety training for our Trades, Custodial and Administrative staff. Also invited to this event are other departments such as Events & Conference Services, IITS and the ISTs, who benefit from the trainings that are available. FDM has a very strong safety culture, and this event ensures that remains strong. In addition to the trainings, vendors are on-site for demonstrations of products as well as providing our team an opportunity to see the newest products and tools available.





# UPDATES & ACCOLADES

## FACILITIES DEVELOPMENT AND MANAGEMENT

**Apprenticeship Program** - This June FDM celebrated the graduation of **Hector Gomez** from the CSU SETC/JATC Apprenticeship Program! CSUSM is an active participant in the Chancellor's Office Joint Apprenticeship Program. Hector successfully completed a grueling 4-year program of on-the-job and classroom training. The apprenticeship program is designed to provide the CSU System with qualified, well-trained Facilities and skilled trade workers. We are very proud of Hector! Congratulations!!



University Police Department  
California State University San Marcos



### CITIZEN'S COMMENDATION

**UPD Recognition for 3rd Shift Custodians** - UPD recognized **Paula Ibarra De Vargas, Brandon Valdes, and Adrian Acevedo**, three of FDM's 3rd shift Custodians, who were instrumental in reporting suspicious activity on campus that resulted in the arrest and recovery of over \$6000.00 worth of stolen campus equipment.



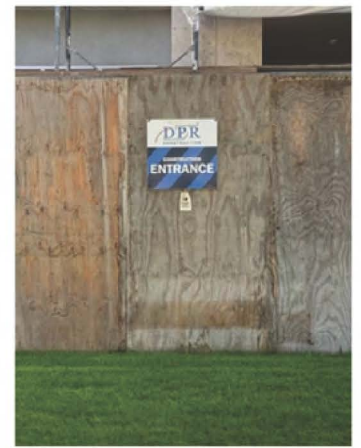


# UPDATES & ACCOLADES

## PLANNING, DESIGN & CONSTRUCTION

### Craven Hall West Exterior Wall Replacement and Repair Project

Construction for the Craven Hall West Exterior Wall Project has resumed and is scheduled to have construction activities completed on December 2, 2022. PDC is scheduled to have all departments and occupants moved back into their spaces by January 13, 2023.



### ACD 202

ACD 202 has undergone a renovation for the CSIS Grad Lab. The classroom will now feature new furniture and technology to assist Graduate Students.



### Veteran's Center Flagpole

The Veteran's Center received a new flagpole featuring the American flag with the six branches of military flags posted below.





# UPDATES & ACCOLADES

## PLANNING, DESIGN & CONSTRUCTION

### Big Belly Trashcans

FDM in partnership with SHS will be rolling out Bigbelly stations. Bigbelly are smart, solar-powered sensor-equipped waste and recycling stations that communicate real-time status to streamline waste management operations. Bins will be installed throughout campus as our Campus Commitment to Sustainability.



### Science Hall 2 - Exhaust Project

FDM is wrapping up the Science Hall 2 - 308 Exhaust Project. The scope of the project includes replacing exhaust fan 37-6 with an upsized unit, supply additional general exhaust, tying into the existing strobic exhaust fans, and providing exhaust to Science Hall 2 Lab Room 308.



### Kellogg Library 3rd Floor Renovation

The 3rd Floor Kellogg Library has undergone a renovation with completely new furniture and technology to support student needs post-pandemic.



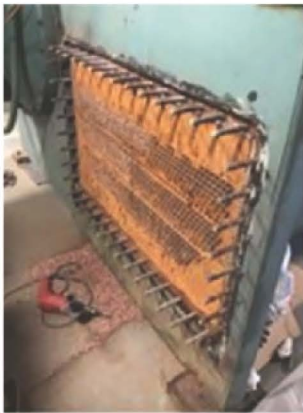


# UPDATES & ACCOLADES

## Energy Management & Utility Services

Energy Management and Utility Services has been keeping busy with many projects across campus. Some project highlights include:

- HVAC renovations and upgrades in areas of Commons and Science Hall 2
- State elevator inspections and testing of our 45 elevators and 5 wheelchair lifts
- Developing a project to replace the Clarke Field House's chiller
- Overhauling the treated water program on campus which provides the heating and cooling on campus
- Gearing up to replace our Building Automation System. This system centrally controls the HVAC and lighting across campus
- Preparing to bring solar generation to campus
- Completed a project to add 42 airflow monitoring stations across various HVAC units
- Epoxy coated the water-boxes of the Central Plant Chillers (before and after pictures below):



We also continue to maintain our HVAC systems at a very high level and frequently monitor regulatory guidelines.

- All of our buildings have air change rates that are considered either Excellent or Ideal
- We have maximized the outside air drawn into the buildings while also minimizing/eliminating the use of recirculated air where possible
- The vast majority of our campus has MERV 13 or MERV 14 filtration which meets or exceeds the pandemic target filtration efficiency
- We have increased the number of hours that our HVAC systems run so that the buildings are flushed before and after occupancy
- Filters are checked on a weekly basis by journey-level technicians (among the many other preventive maintenance activities)



**Rene Carrillo** obtained his Building Operator Certificate I credential. This is a nationally recognized professional certification that provides building operators with the knowledge and skills associated with scoping energy efficiency improvements and enhancing building operations.





# UPDATES & ACCOLADES

## Facility Services

**Kellogg Library 3rd Floor Refresh:** Facility Services collaborated with PDC on a project to renew the furniture for the entire third floor of Kellogg library to COVID-19 compliant furniture. FS worked with Library management on refreshing the carpet and paint to match the new furniture. The result is outstanding, and the project was finished ahead of schedule.



**Campus Trip Hazards:** This project mitigated various trip hazards throughout the campus by replacing the slate tiles that were lifting up at Chavez Circle, U-Hall Plaza, ACD Plaza. Also replaced was the concrete at the SBSB loading area. This is a part of our yearly campus trip hazard mitigation plan.



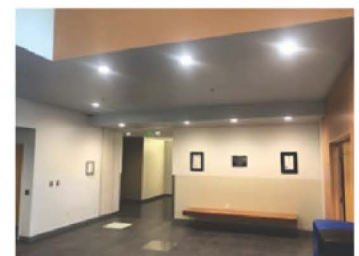
**SBSB TV Wall -** Working in partnership with IITS, FS installed a big-screen TV flush with the wall.



**Tunnel Hatch Replacement by Chavez Circle -** Replaced the inoperable tunnel hatch by Chavez Circle. The inoperable hatch posed a safety issue because there would be a lack of egress during an emergency.



**Electrical Shop -** The electrical shop has been busy lighting up the campus with quite a few projects:





# UPDATES & ACCOLADES

## Office of Human Resources (OHR)



**Welcome to the team:** We are so excited to welcome **Ed Dikitanan** (Benefits/COVID-19 Coordinator), **Tanya Obermark** (Leaves Analyst), **Toni Shields** (Director, Professional Development), **Pablo Chavez** (Associate Director), **Charlease Tyson** (HR Assistant), **Vielka Tovar** (Payroll Technician)

**Congratulations:** We are so proud of **Yasuko Shirakawa** for receiving her Master's Degree in May. She is also teaching a class on campus this semester! And, a big shout out to **Charlease Tyson** who graduated with her Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration from CSUSM this year!

## Cougar Coffee Break



## Mocktail Hour





# UPDATES & ACCOLADES

## Staff Center



### Physical Location for the Staff Center

It's Official. The Staff Center will be moving in a portion of Commons 109. Our new space will include three offices, a meeting room, and a large open area with several areas for our non-MPP staff to get together and network. Commons 109 also includes a large atrium right outside the front doors where we will hold many future events.



### Buddy Cohort Program

In May, the Staff Center implemented a brand-new Buddy Cohort Program for new non-MPP staff. The program replaces the previous onboarding program where new employees were paired with one senior non-MPP member.

The primary goal of the program is to create a larger support system for our new employees and to provide opportunities for cohort members to network and build relationships with others outside of their department.

### Getting Dirty: Seed Starters

**Mike Geck** showing VP Wyden (and many others) how to grow a garden with seed starters. Special appearances from Dr. Allen and the President! All were eager to learn from our very own subject matter expert!





# UPDATES & ACCOLADES

## Corporation

**Welcome to the team** - We are thrilled to welcome **Laura Coward** (left), Sponsored Projects Coordinator and **James McBride** (not pictured), Contract Manager.



**Congratulations** - to **Trina Beckwith**, our new Associate Executive Director and **Brenda Hovis**, who received her Masters of Accounting in May. We are so proud of your accomplishments!



## Come Check Out The Campus Way Cafe!

(Click [Here](#) for Dining Hours and Menu)



## Office of Sponsored Projects

**Congratulations to those who received awards recently:**

**Dr. Diego Sustaita** | CSTEM/Biology | National Science Foundation | CAREER | CAREER: Morphology, Performance, and Ecology of the Endangered Salt Marsh Harvest Mouse and Co-occurring Wetland Rodents.

**Dr. Kim Pulvers** | CHABSS/Psychology | National Institutes of Health | Support for Research Excellence (SuRE) | Behavioral Economic Demand for Cannabis and Tobacco among Young Adult Dual Users.

**Dr. Badal Joshi** | CSTEM/Mathematics | University Wisconsin-Madison subaward, National Science Foundation | Facilitating Research at Primarily Undergraduate Institutions: Research Opportunity Awards (Supplement) | Reaction Networks: Theory, Computation, and Applications.

**Drs. Julie Jameson, Denise Garcia, Carlos Luna Lopez, Suzanne Hizer, Richard Armenta**, in collaboration with Dr. Dawn Eastmond (The Scripps Research Institute), Dr. Angeline Yang (UCSD), and Dr. Kevin Corbett (UCSD) | Center for Training, Research, and Educational Excellence (CTREE) | National Institutes of Health | Bridges to the Doctorate Program | Bridges to the Doctorate Research Training Program at CSU San Marcos with UCSD and TSRI.



# UPDATES & ACCOLADES

## IITS

### What we are proud of...



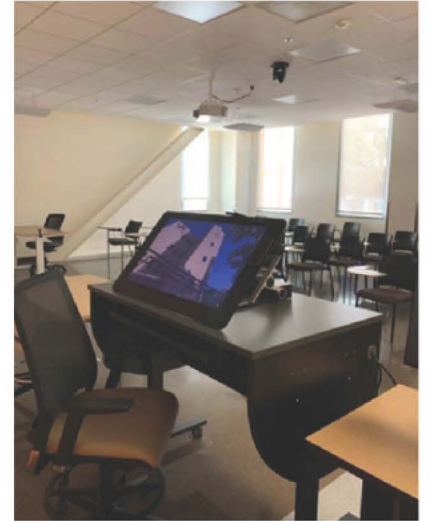
#### Carlos Arciniega

Carlos received the Legendary Service Award at IITS' very first FAS Division meeting!



#### CSUCCESS Rollout 2022

We provided iPads and Laptops to any incoming student who requested one to minimize the digital divide and set our students up for success.



#### Classroom Support Staff

They had the classrooms Live and Online for Fall 2022.

### What we've been up to...

- Transitioned students' email to Microsoft from Google to enable improved collaborations and communications.
- Transitioned our Learning Management Service (LMS) from Moodle to Canvas to improve instructional experiences and promote student success. .

### What we are working on...

Moving campus away from Salesforce and towards Dynamics for increased tool and workflow integrations, improved data and event tracking, and enhanced communications.

### New Employees...

**Matt McCoy** and **Brennan Vilbrandt** recently joined the Faculty Staff Helpdesk team.

### What's changed...

**Marlita Fordice** – Moved from Desktop Engineering to Enterprise Systems Group; **Alex Martinez Camarena** – Moved from Helpdesk to Desktop Engineering; **Andrew Diaz** – Moved from Helpdesk to Administrative Applications; **John Romanski** – Moved from Administrative Applications to Information Security; **Kyle Martin** – Moved from helpdesk to Information Security.



Thank you **John Humes**, for your amazing leadership and tireless work ethic over the past year!



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# UPDATES & ACCOLADES

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## Business & Financial Services

### Business & Financial Services

The Fiscal Services department has performed another successful fiscal legal close for 2021/2022! So what is fiscal close? It is a 250+ task project that typically starts in March and is due by July 15th. The purpose of this project is to ensure that financial transactions for the fiscal year (payments, accruals, journal entries, obligations, etc.) are properly recorded and reported to the Chancellor's Office. For context, activities at our campus produce more than 150,000 accounting lines! A summary of all these transactions is eventually consolidated and reported to the State Controller's Office. CSUSM had a clean submission (no errors!) which means our fiscal close was of the highest quality and completed in a timely manner a few days before the deadline.

Fiscal close involves collaboration across the entire campus. Representatives from the following departments come together to make this happen and team up through recurring meetings:

- Accounting
- Student Financial Services
- Financial Systems Operations
- Accounts Payable
- Procurement & Contracts
- Budget Office
- Financial Aid
- Distribution & Property Control Services
- Extended Learning
- Planning Design and Construction



### Student Financial Services

SFS is in the middle of a reorganization of duties. **Jessany Avila** and **Daniela Sankey** have recently moved to back-office positions from the Cashier counter. **Patty Hanks** has moved into a brand new role focusing primarily on university cash handling procedures and compliance.

From June to mid-August each year, **Judy Sandmann**, Administrative Analyst in Student Financial Services (SFS), updates her orientation presentation for new incoming students and families. This year the orientation team also asked Judy to create and present a financial wellness presentation to students. During the summer, Judy offered "How to Pay for CSUSM" at 15 family orientations and 30 financial wellness presentations for students. **Daniela Sankey** and **Ana Lopez** provided their bilingual skills to answer questions at Spanish-speaking family sessions. Judy co-presented at two online veteran student presentations and 15 in-person veteran student presentations. There was a total of 7143 attendees at these orientations. Judy says, "I absolutely LOVE helping and educating our new students and families."

A resource fair during lunch allowed students and families to ask more questions. Many thanks to **Mary Carrillo**, **Patty Hanks**, **Ana Lopez**, and **Daniela Sankey** for helping Judy host the resource fair.

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# UPDATES & ACCOLADES

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## Financial Systems Operations

CMS (Common Management System) will be upgrading CFS (Common Financial System) once again this fall. There may be minor navigation changes, such as alphabetically listing menu options. Your Favorites will be saved and moved to the new version. Anytime you have a question about PeopleSoft Finance CFS, please contact [fso@csusm.edu](mailto:fso@csusm.edu) for assistance. **Karen, Karleen, and Ray** are here and happy to help!

## **New Employees**

### Fiscal Services:

**Jeffrey Hall** joined Fiscal Services in February 2022 as an Accountant. Along with his other duties, Jeff works alongside campus and auxiliary organizations reviewing and processing financial transfer requests. Previously, Jeff worked for a public accounting firm as a staff auditor doing work for HOAs. Jeff graduated with a bachelor's degree in accounting in 2019. Jeff enjoys long drives, hikes, heading to the mountains or beaches, watching cinema, listening to music, or enjoying any form of entertainment. We are pleased to have Jeff on the Accounting team.

Please extend a warm welcome to **Oliver Bahman**, who joined the Auxiliary Accounting team in June 2022 as an Accountant. Oliver graduated from CSU Los Angeles in 2015 with a BS degree in Business Administration with an Option in Accounting and a Minor in Economics. Oliver worked at Cal State LA in auxiliary and stateside capacities for more than six years. While in school, Oliver was a student assistant throughout his studies. Oliver's hobbies include spending time with family and friends, trying new cuisines, and learning languages.

**Heidy Salinas** is the most recent addition to Fiscal Services, starting this August as an Accountant. Heidy's job is to process and reconcile non-student accounts receivable. In her spare time, she enjoys sewing, crafting, and cycling. As a recent alumna of CSUSM, graduating in December 2021, she is proud to be back on campus working and being part of the Cougar team.

### Accounts Payable:

Please welcome **Aaron Alvarez**, who joined the Accounts Payable Team in May 2022 as an Accounting Technician. Aaron has many years of accounts payable and customer service experience. We are very happy to have his expertise and lighthearted personality as an excellent part of our team. Aaron enjoys participating in the Carlsbad 5000, and Vista Strawberry runs. Horseback riding, and animals. Taking trips to Mexico to visit family and friends. Baseball, football, golf, hiking, and walking on the beach. Please take a moment to welcome Aaron!

### Student Financial Services:

As our newest Cashier, **Ana Lopez** brought her passion for service to Student Financial Services in December 2021. Ana graduated from CSUSM in 2014 with a Bachelor of Arts in Human Development with an emphasis in Counseling Services. Ana's comprehensive skill set and years of experience in customer service make her a valuable contributor to the SFS team. Ana enjoys exploring coffee shops and is a fur mom to two cats. You can find Ana at Chicano Park looking at low riders on a nice summer night. Swing by Cougar Central and say hello to Ana.

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# UPDATES & ACCOLADES

## New Employees (Continued)

**Tracy Wang** joined Student Financial Services in March 2022 as a Systems Analyst. Tracy has a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration-Finance from CSU Los Angeles. Tracy's work experience includes over six years at CSU Fullerton and almost eight years at Cal Poly Pomona. Tracy brings extensive PeopleSoft expertise to our team and enjoys sharing this knowledge and providing technical assistance to others. In her spare time, Tracy enjoys traveling, running, and yoga. Welcome to CSUSM!

## Budget Office:

**Tammy Marchand** joined the Budget Department in Sept 2022 as a Budget Analyst. Her background includes 27 years at a tech company with her last job title as Accounting Manager. She enjoys camping (especially in the Eastern Sierras) with her family, fishing, and DIY home and furniture projects. Tammy has two adult kids, her youngest is a transfer student and started at CSUSM this Fall. She enjoys catching up with him between classes and trying to embarrass him with mom hugs, so far he's a good sport about it.

## Congratulations and Best Wishes

Budget Office

Congratulations! **Joseline Dyas** has officially accepted the position of Associate Dean of Finance and Business Operations with Extended Learning, effective July 1, 2022. BFS is very grateful for Joseline's contributions to our department over the years, and we wish her all the best and continued success in her permanent role in EL. Joseline will be greatly missed!

**Crystal Villalobos** is relocating with her family to Texas, and her last day in the Budget Office was August 26. Crystal has been on campus for over 11 years, with nearly seven years in the Budget Office. Her tireless desire to help those on campus and her seemingly endless optimism and energy will be greatly missed! We wish Crystal the very best in her new adventure in Texas!

TRAINING

**Tracy Wang** completed PeopleSoft Query for Campus Solutions.





# Employee Spotlight



**Aaron Alvarez**  
**Accounts Payable Technician II**

**What is your favorite song?**

Never Surrender by Stan Bush

**What is one thing on your bucket list that you have completed?**

Running the Carlsbad 5000

**If you had to walk dramatically, in slow motion, through every doorway you enter, what song would be playing?**

Chariots of Fire

**If you hosted a dinner party with any three guests, dead or alive, who would they be?**

Roy Scheider, Robert Shaw and Richard Dreyfuss



**Tracy Wang**  
**Systems Analyst**

**What is one thing on your bucket list that you have completed?**

Ziplining through the rainforest of Barbados (good ole pre-pandemic times!)

**Give one random fact about yourself.**

I am a snowboarder, even though I don't have as many opportunities to hit the slopes as I used to. Age happens!

**What is the best present that you have ever received?**

I received the gift of life. I was only 8 years old when I almost died at sea from illness as many people didn't survive the ordeal of fleeing our home country after the Vietnam war.





# Thank You Notes

Thank you **Toni Shields** for stepping up and helping SO MUCH with BPI!!! Your presence in itself is so calming to me and I'm so lucky I get to work with you all the time. You are such a great leader and I learn from you every time we are together!

-Shannon Honour Shaw

To **Ashley North** – thank you so much for assisting us in getting our student assistants' paperwork processed. We appreciate your time and are so excited to have them aboard!

-Lindsay, Maria and the whole team

Thank you **Vance Kekoa** for all your work on the travel video. We would have never been able to do anything like this without your expertise, and we are so lucky to know you AND have you in our subdivision now!

– Shannon Honour Shaw

Thank you **Amber Giacalone** for always helping my clueless self with SO many tasks, like the never-ending EE survey! I can't believe we scored someone like you in our office... you make coming to work fun!!!!

-Shannon Honour Shaw

Thank you to all **SFS staff** and Student Assistants for being so amazing! Your hard work and dedication is inspiring.

-Nasrin DeCoux

To **Erin and Audrey** - Thank you so much for everything you have done for me personally and for the whole department. We appreciate you!

-Maria and the Procurement Team

A huge thank you to **Lindsay** and **Kerry** for their guidance and expertise in the University Village Student Success and Master Plan projects. I am grateful for our partnership.

-Virginia Berman

Thank you to **Facilities** and **Central Plant** for your continued support of the Commons project! It's a pleasure to walk the site, witness safe practices, collaborate on solutions, and maintain an all-hands approach to constructing a new facility for our Custodial Shop.

-Rajesh Badri

To the **Fabulous FSO Team** – thanks for being constantly willing to help us with all the weird stuff we need. We are so appreciative of your can-do spirit and flexibility!

-Procurement and Contracts

Thank you to **Veronica Ohm, Jill Heath, Kristin Erickson, and Sheila Van Metre!** I don't know how I would function without your patience and flexibility. You are a true dream team!

-Amber Giacalone

Thank you to **Work Control Administration** and **Procurement** for your purchase order and contract support for our Commons Custodial project!

-Rajesh Badri

Thanks to all our FAS partners for all the help and support: **VP Office, BFS, HR, CORP, IITS, and UPD.**

-Mark Norita



# Thank You Notes

To **Brianna & Angela** - Thank you both for your patience with me and my team. This new travel process that involves Concur is a really great improvement and I am excited about it. Even though it took me several tries to get things right you stuck by me and worked it out with me. Then Angela came in at the end for the save. You both are great to work with and we are lucky to have you.

-Gina Frasca

Thank you to **Maria Froehle** for your patience with our recent RFP contract. You made sure we stayed on track and didn't miss a beat. Thank you!

-Virginia Berman

A big shout-out to the Instructional Design team! **Becky Williams, Susan Eldridge, Terri Georgopolous and Barbara Taylor** have been champions during the Canvas migration. They have assisted faculty in making the Learning Management System transitions and helping the CSUSM campus get ready for a great Fall 2022 semester.

-Michelle Kinzel

To **Brittani Brown** - Thank you for adopting SH&S and being one of the best supervisors that I have had in my 24 years. Thank you for taking interest in what my team does, how they do it and who they personally are. Even for going the extra mile to learn everything you could about Environmental, Health, Occupational Safety & Sustainability. You are truly an amazing person and I can't wait to get to know you better and how we can make you proud to be responsible for us.

-Gina Frasca

Thank you to the **PDC team** for letting FDMA crash your space while we are displaced from our building! We are enjoying the comradery and working with you on a different level.

-Virginia Berman

**FDMA** – thank you for putting on the 1st FDM Olympics. It was great...and interesting! Good job.

-Mark Norita

With our restructuring to FDM from Procurement, in advance and since, FDM has provided us with a wonderful welcome, ensuring that we feel a part of the FDM Family. Many thank yous to **Mark Norita, Virginia Berman, Veronica Ohm, all of FDMA and Facility Services**. Everyone has always been kind and helpful to each of us; we're glad to be members of the team and look forward to our successful future together!

~ Distribution Services

Thanks to **Bryan Fisher** and **Randy Hegner** for jumping in and helping me with a rush request. I know there was a lot going on and appreciate you pivoting and helping me and my team out!

-Virginia Berman

To **Heather Burkland, Floyd Dudley, Rayanne Weber & Virginia Berman**-We have been involved in so many projects over the last 2 years... COVID stuff, Status update meetings, Industrial water issues, Stormwater issues, COVID & HVAC presentations, etc. Your team has been integral in so many challenges for campus and somehow everyone comes through. Thank you for being great colleagues and great leaders during these challenges. I look forward to a celebration at some point.

-Gina Frasca

Thank you to **Bart** and **Debbie** for jumping into inventory with me and working to document and define our processes. I appreciate the desire to get it right!

-Virginia Berman

Thank you to the **Central Plant** and the **Electrical Shop** for all of your assistance with the Science 2 308 Exhaust project! This project's schedule was extremely tight and the Central Plant and Electrical Shop assistance was critical to the project's delivery.

-Rajesh Badri

**FDM Management** – thank you for putting in the long days and for all your hard work. You are making good things happen.

-Mark Norita



# Thank You Notes

Thank you **John Humes and Tasos Lazarides** - for all of the support during our recent search. You made the impossible, possible. I cannot express how much it meant to me.

-Amber Giacalone

We are very glad that **Cesar Alumbres** chose to join the Distribution Services team this past Spring, having been with Custodial Services for the previous 4 years, which provided him with established relationships among fellow campus members, and knowledge of our campus layout. Arriving in the midst of numerous changes, Cesar was up to the task from his first day, at the ready and proving himself to be a great asset to our group. Cesar, thank you for taking on the challenge(s) that are part of Distribution, where each day is different; your kindness, assistance, and flexibility to tackle the ever-changing tasks in support of our group is much appreciated. We're so happy to have you!

~ Debbie, Lawrence, Symeon and Bart

Distribution Services was restructured from Procurement to FDM this year, with **Virginia Berman** at the helm as our Director. As we become acclimated to new and different responsibilities, Virginia has been a great help to us and a reliable resource. Thank you Virginia for your patient guidance and support, which we greatly appreciate!

~ Your Distribution Services Team: Debbie, Lawrence, Symeon, Cesar and Bart

Thank you to the **FDM team** for getting the campus ready for the Fall Semester. Our buildings and grounds look great. Many projects, moves, needed repairs, cleaning, and preventive maintenance were completed this summer providing students, faculty, and staff with the environment needed for success. Also, the support from **Work Control, Admin., Automotive, and Distribution Services** was awesome and appreciated.

-Mark Norita

Thank you to **Brittani Brown, Shannon Honour Shaw, May Flores, Edith Nuno-Parada and Candace Bebee**. You are the music behind the lyrics of my workplace. You make it beautiful. I am so lucky to spend my days with such an amazing team.

-Amber Giacalone

I would like to recognize **Carlos Arciniega**, the lead of the campus network team in IITS, for his dedication to serving the campus. Carlos is one of the most in-demand IITS resources that keep the university churning. Without Carlos, North Commons, the new student residence building, would have been unable to open its doors to new students this Fall. The new location for EL-Temecula at MSJC would not have been able to welcome students to a new set of classrooms, and many hard-working staff across the campus would be without the critical resources needed to perform their jobs. There are many hard-working individuals that make up the backbone of IITS, but Carlos truly deserves appreciation as he always puts others before himself.

-Nicholas Duarte

Thanks to **EMUS** and **FS** for the work they did at ELB and U-Hall checking and then replacing huge motors the weekend before the semester started. Long hours and a long weekend...I am so appreciative of the work and the can-do attitude.

-Mark Norita

Thank you **Vanessa Rivera** - for making my workstation so incredibly comfortable and safe! And, for always showing up exactly when I need a friendly smile and a belly laugh!

-Amber Giacalone

Thank you **Edith Nuno** for volunteering your process for BPI. We learned so much from the experience, both the cohort and the trainers (especially me!). You are such a great asset to our team and a boss lady at policy

-Shannon Honour Shaw