



California State University
SAN MARCOS

OFFICE OF
COMMUNICATIONS

Thursday, May 10, 2018

Dear CSUSM Community,

Next Friday and Saturday, more than 3,500 students will become part of the largest graduating class in CSUSM history, bringing our total number of alumni to 45,000!

As a first generation college graduate myself, I am so proud that 54 percent of the Class of 2018 are first in their family to graduate with a four-year degree, and 39 percent are from historically underrepresented populations. With their diverse backgrounds, brilliant ideas and passionate hearts, I look forward to seeing the impact our graduates will make on communities here and around the world.

I also want to thank all of our faculty and staff for their work and contributions to prepare the Class of 2018. As we reflect on the successes of the last academic year and look with anticipation and excitement to welcoming a new class of first-year and transfer students this fall, it is important that we share stories of CSUSM impact and success with our legislators.

As you may have heard, Governor Brown has proposed only a 1.4 percent increase to the CSU operating budget for the 2018-2019 year, falling \$171 million short of what the CSU actually needs. In April, [Chancellor White announced that the CSU will not increase tuition in the coming year](#) and instead asked that we focus our collective efforts on engaging policymakers to make CSU and public higher education funding a top priority.

Here at CSUSM, we have engaged in advocacy strategies including in-district, Sacramento and Washington D.C. visits with state and federal legislators, and we have requested that key University stakeholders and advisory groups send letters of support to Governor Brown and Senate/Assembly leadership. As the state budget process continues, we are committed to working closely with the [CSU to protect higher education in California](#).

Now, I ask that you make your voice heard as well. Each of us has personal stories of the life-changing experiences that happen at CSUSM every day. These narratives are the most powerful endorsement of our university and the most compelling message we can send to lawmakers as they make funding decisions. Please take a moment today to [reach out to your legislator](#) and ask them to invest in the future and

fully fund the CSU's budget proposal.

If you are active on Twitter, please tag [@standwithCSU](#), [@calstate](#), and [@CSUSMAdvocacy](#) in your advocacy posts and use the hashtag #ChooseCSU.

With greater state investment, the CSU can go further and faster in ensuring that all students have the opportunity to graduate in a timely manner, not only positively impacting their future but producing the graduates needed to power California forward.

Sincerely,

Karen S. Haynes, Ph.D.
President