



Director’s Message

In 2015, the California State University system embarked on an ambitious proposal entitled, “Graduation Initiative 2025: Improving student success through innovation and strategic thinking”. Using proactive strategies, each campus was tasked with substantially increasing the percentage of students who completed their degrees in 4 – 6 years for first year students and 2 – 4 years for transfer students over the next ten years. CSUSM set in motion various approaches to address the obstacles that contributed to lower graduation rates, and which prevented their students from completing undergraduate degrees in a timely manner.

Implementing a program that strives to reach higher graduation goals among its students is something that TRIO programs have done well for decades. For TRIO programs, the objectives that we set in our grants are not only ambitious but also attainable based on data which clearly demonstrates that our services meet the needs of traditionally disadvantaged students. Because of this success, TRIO SSS at CSUSM has continually shown that we were up to the challenge of increasing our rates.

However, in March 2020, the Covid-19 pandemic forced most classes, services, and programming across campus to quickly pivot to online platforms. Even though no one anticipated the additional challenges this would bring to helping students persist and graduate, TRIO SSS once again found innovative ways to adjust our approaches to reach our students. We learned to navigate a new world of education alongside our students.

As a result, I am pleased to report that TRIO SSS at CSUSM met and surpassed the mid-point goals for 2021 that had been originally set by the CSU Graduation Initiative in 2015 as evidenced in the chart below. Through continued innovation, we are confident that we will surpass the 2025 goals as well.

| | GI 25 FY 4 year goal | SSS FY 4 year | GI 25 FY 6 year goal | SSS FY 6 year | GI 25 TR 2 year goal | SSS TR 2 year | GI 25 TR 4 year goal | SSS TR 4 year |
|------|----------------------|---------------|----------------------|---------------|----------------------|---------------|----------------------|---------------|
| 2015 | 19% | 19% | 57% | 48% | 31% | 28% | 73% | 79% |
| 2021 | 33% | 38% | 63% | 69% | 44% | 52% | 80% | 80% |
| 2025 | 40% | | 70% | | 45% | | 85% | |

TRIP TO THE SAN DIEGO SAFARI PARK



This event was our first in-person event since March 2020!



The students were excited to be in the Safari Park and to visit the animals in their habitats.



Fall 2021 DEAN'S LIST

CONGRATULATIONS to the following students who have earned a
GPA of 3.5 or higher

| | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| Zaina Aljayyousi | Cynthia Gonzalez Duenas | Briana Phillips |
| Jesus Alvarado | Vania Griswold | Gena Pimentel |
| Synthia Ayala | Alexis Hernandez | Mayra Reyes |
| Kasandra Barajas | Gaspar Humerada | Sophia Reyes |
| Miriam Bastawrous | Nicholas Hunt | Samantha Rodriguez |
| Ruby Beltran Cruz | Rachael Jarrell | Massoud Sadat |
| Cynthia Benitez Ascencio | Daniela Jasso | Miriam Salvador |
| Luis Bernal | Viviana Jimenez | Damariss Santos Amezcua |
| Daisy Bolanos | Angel Lara | Julie Sarmiento |
| Danny Chung | Emily Lopez | Mary Smiljkovich |
| Vicky Dang | Jennifer Lopez | Luz Sotelo |
| Hannah Lindsey De Asis | Mireya Lugo | Jeffrey Soulinha |
| Monica De Las Rosa | Juliza Mendoza | Michelle St.Amand |
| Kasandra Delacruz | Christina Mertens | Cheyenne Tackett |
| Melissa Diego | Keanu Meyers | Loiza Tarwater |
| Monica Estrada | Nathan Montoya | Bradley Tran |
| Kristina Friedley | Elizabeth Murguia | Joanna Valdez Castro |
| Cassandra Fuentes | Noriega Eric | Edmundo Villa |
| Valeria Garcia | Benjamin Ombeni | Cecilia Villa |
| Daphne Garcia-Solorio | Jenny Ortega | Kelsey Wierenga |
| Natalie Gil | Jennifer Pastrana | Lily Woods |
| Julia Glorioso | Jessica Pena | |

CONGRATULATIONS to the following part-time students
who have earned a GPA of 3.5 or higher

Juliana Abraham

Anais Garcia

Anayeli Lujan Lopez

FALL 2021 ONE-UNIT CLASS

Historical Origins of “Yellow Peril” and “Hypersexualization” of Asian Women



One of the components of the one-unit class was a visit to the San Diego Chinese Historical Museum and San Diego's Historic Chinatown.

The students, professors and TRIO SSS staff.

Inside the Museum's Chuang Garden, Professor Cassel described the authentic Chinese food which formed the staple diet of the Chinese railway workers.



The students enjoyed a Chinese family meal at the Imperial Mandarin Restaurant.

TRIO SSS STUDENTS WHERE ARE THEY NOW?



We like to follow our students to learn about their education/career path since graduating from our program and CSUSM. Below is a update from from one of our TRIO Student Support Services (SSS) graduates.

“Hello! My name is Maria Ochoa and I am a CSUSM alumni. I graduated in May 2019 with a degree in Human Development. Since graduating, there have been many changes in my life in regard to my career and my education.

After graduating, I decided I wanted to pursue a master’s degree in Speech-Language Pathology. I applied to the post-bac program at CSUSM and completed all the classes necessary to apply to the master’s program. Sadly, after a long and stressful process I got the news that I was not accepted to any of the schools I applied to. During this time I was working as a sales representative at a gym and decided I needed to gain some experience in a field that I was passionate about.

I have always loved working with kids and decided to apply for work at a center for autism. I got hired and have been working there for almost a year. I work with kids from all age ranges and different abilities. Most importantly, I have been getting experience working with kids with communication disorders and that has helped me reinforce everything I learned during the post-bac program at CSUSM. I believe this experience has given me what I need to strengthen my applications.

I have recently applied to master programs again and am waiting to hear back. One thing that I know is that I will not be giving up and I will achieve my goals."

Calendar of Events

| Date | Success Forums | Venue |
|-----------|---|------------|
| 2/9/2022 | Getting Things Done | Virtual |
| 2/16/2022 | Honoring Values and Goals | Virtual |
| 3/3/2022 | Mindfulness: Loving Yourself | Virtual |
| 3/16/2022 | Designing Your Strengths | Virtual |
| 4/6/2022 | Virtual World –Electronic Portfolio | Virtual |
| 4/20/2022 | Negotiating Your Salary | Virtual |
| 5/4/2022 | Celebrating Success | Virtual |
| | | |
| | Other Events | |
| 3/4/2022 | Trip to Beyond Van Gogh | Off Campus |
| 4/2/2022 | TRIO SSS Annual Student Conference | In-Person |
| 4/29/2022 | TRIO SSS Annual Graduation Recognition Ceremony | In-Person |
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