

# The Corner

*by Academic Affairs*

Fall 2023



California State University  
SAN MARCOS

## Announcements

### Assessment is alive and well on the CSUSM campus.

Degree programs conduct annual assessments to obtain information about learning, diversity and equity, and other areas to help programs improve. The following examples demonstrate the breadth of “action research” (assessments) conducted during AY 2021-22:

- BS in Kinesiology major surveyed students to help inform curriculum, engage in strategic planning to determine the future directions of the department, and to advocate for more resources to support students.
- BA in Social Sciences program surveyed students and used the responses to inform changes to the curriculum.
- MS in Speech-Language Pathology department decided to change entrance requirements to increase diversity in the student population. Rather than increasing diversity numbers, though, the department found that students entering with the changed requirement were less prepared and needed more remediation. So, since the program is already more diverse than most SLP programs, the department decided to return to the original requirement.
- MA in History program analyzed demographic data to determine if previous efforts to “step up” recruitment of women and students of color had any effect. The program found that the number of women in the program has increased, the proportions of URM to non/URM are closer to 50/50 now, and the numbers showed a marked increase in Latinx students.

**OGSR** and 13 faculty graduate coordinators participated in the Graduate & Professional School Fair that was held at CSUSM on Tuesday, October 10th to market and recruit our graduate programs.

**CSUSM Centers** have been busy! CTREE is currently hosting the Special Speakers and Summer Student Workshops. ARTES, CLIMB, and the Institutes co-sponsored [Power of Compassion to Transform our World](#) on Wednesday, October 11th.

### CSUSM Students can earn up to **FOUR** units during Winter Break!

CSUSM students can accelerate their progress toward graduation by earning up to four units in just four weeks during [Winter Intersession 2024](#). Courses are offered in a wide range of fields and session dates are Dec. 18, 2023, to Jan. 13, 2024. The [course schedule](#) is available for viewing now and **enrollment for CSUSM students begins Oct. 16**. Visit [Winter Intersession 2024](#) for more information, including the [class schedule](#).

### Masking/Facial Coverings Reminder

Local public health experts are not currently requiring that everyone wear a mask when indoors, regardless of vaccination status. CSUSM fully supports and respects those who wish to continue wearing facial coverings as an effective way to protect themselves and others. As a friendly reminder, medical conditions are confidential and no one should feel pressured to remove their mask or to disclose the reason they choose to wear a mask. More information about masking and where to find free masks can be found at [CSUSM as One](#).

## Announcements

### Office of Undergraduate Studies: Strategic Reorganization to Strengthen Students' Academic Progress

The Office of Undergraduate Studies (OUGS) has been working over the last year on a strategic reorganization that allows us to expand our services for students and guide student success efforts across campus. This reorganization effort aligns the work of OUGS across three pillars: **First Year and University Programs**, our academic department offering CSUSM's award-winning first-year seminar course (GEL 101) and a suite of courses focused on academic recovery and resiliency for students on academic notice or returning from academic disqualification; **Experiential Learning**, with a focus on high-impact practices, namely Service Learning and Civic Engagement; and **Academic Support**, which houses our direct academic services to support the curriculum.

### Service Learning & Civic Engagement:

This semester, **Dr. Sinem Siyahhan** joined Service Learning & Civic Engagement as the new Service Learning Faculty Director! Dr. Siyahhan brings transformative service learning experience, where she has redesigned EDUC 422 into a service learning course that focuses on community-based STEM/STEAM education. She increased partnerships with schools from six to thirty, and that course now supports up to 300 children each semester in neighboring schools and libraries.



On October 1, **France-Luce Benson** (CHABSS, Theatre) was a featured artist at the African American Policy Forum's "Artivism" event to kick off Banned Books week in NYC. The evening included a keynote address by AAPF Executive Director, Kimberlé Crenshaw. Benson's satirical play, "The Ride", in which Rosa Parks takes students on a ride through Black history and into the future in a 1985 Delorean was commissioned by Crenshaw to open the evening of art, activism, and engagement.

## Events

The **Faculty Center Professional Development Grant** [application](#) cycle is now open. The deadline to apply is November 1, 2023.



Please join the **Office of Graduate Studies and Research** on November 23rd as they will be holding the [STUDENT POSTER SHOWCASE](#).

The **Committee for International Research (CIR)** invites faculty members who engage in global/international scholarly work to submit abstracts for the 4th International Research Symposium, to be held on **Thursday, November 16, from 8:30-12:00 and 1:30-3:00 in ELB 373**. Please [submit abstracts](#) by Monday, October 30, 11:59 p.m. Questions regarding the Symposium and CIR can be directed to Liz Ridder ([eridder@csusm.edu](mailto:eridder@csusm.edu)).

## Accolades

Music Department Chair **Ching-Ming Cheng** was recently selected for admission to the Steinway & Sons Teacher Hall of Fame. This prestigious designation recognizes the work of North America's most committed and passionate piano educators. She was invited to attend the official induction ceremony this month at the Steinway & Sons Factory in New York.



**Darci Strother**, Professor of Modern Language Studies, received the Donald Dietz Comedia Prize from the Association for Hispanic Classical Theatre. Awarded only once every 3 years, this prize honors Dr. Strother's "distinguished career of service" to this professional organization which promotes the performance of Spanish-language theatre in local, national and international communities.

Congratulations to **Konane Martinez** and the NLRC

[Rep. Levin, HHS Secretary Announce \\$333,000 to Address Latino Health Disparities](#)

On October 6, Rep. Mike Levin joined U.S. Department of Health & Human Services Secretary Xavier Becerra to announce \$333,000 in new funding for health equity research to address disparities in Latino Health Disparities.

The Office of the Provost and the Office of Graduate Studies and Research hosted *Celebrating Proposal Submissions* on Thursday, September 15 to acknowledge faculty and staff across campus who submitted proposals to external sponsors and to thank campus partners. [photos](#)

Provost Kemnitz and Vice Provost Oling-Sisay would like to invite you to office hours. Share your work activities, ideas, events, and suggestions. [Appointments](#) are first come, first served.

