

Mayor's Education Forum

**Thursday, September 10
6 p.m.**

The McMahan House at Cal State San Marcos

President Karen S. Haynes

SLIDE 1: WHO WE ARE

I want to take this opportunity to welcome you all to the McMahan House on the Cal State San Marcos campus. Cal State San Marcos is your university and we are so proud to be here in this educational hub of North County.

So let me tell you about who we are...and how we are creating pathways for our youth and others wishing to pursue higher education.

First, a snapshot of who we are: Cal State San Marcos is one of the youngest of the CSU campuses, and just a year ago we were one of the five fastest-growing of the CSUs. This fall semester, our student enrollment will be close to 9,400 students, and our new freshman class will again be our largest ever. In fact, our freshman applications now routinely run larger than our entire student body.

We have more than 23,000 proud alumni, including, I'm sure, some of your employees. All of our alumni benefited from exemplary teaching, innovative curricula, and the application of new technologies.

Our faculty are not only part of, but in some cases, driving the national research agenda, receiving \$8.9 million in research grants and contracts in the past year.

Although public higher education institutions are being severely impacted by the state and national fiscal crisis, we can and should continue to play a role in our communities to help address needs and solve problems. When I became President of Cal State San Marcos close to six years ago, I vowed that educational attainment and educational access would be among our highest priorities.

They are imperative if we are to prepare our students for leadership roles and serve the needs of this vibrant and diverse region.

SLIDE 2: SERVING AND REFLECTING OUR REGION

Let me cite a few statistics to give you a snapshot of what I mean:

At Cal State San Marcos, 39% of our student population are students of color. Based on Census numbers used by SANDAG, this is reflective of San Diego County's college-aged population.

This past spring we reached enrollment numbers of 25% Hispanic students, which if these numbers are sustained, will make us eligible for Hispanic Serving Institution status. We were recognized with Asian American Native American Pacific Islander serving status as our enrollment numbers exceed the 10% federal requirement.

42% of our new students are from north county San Diego.

SLIDE 3: PREPARING LOCAL LEADERS

And, when we say we are preparing your future leaders, we have the data to prove it. Close to 90% of our graduates stay in the area. They are your children's teachers, your nurses, accountants, scientists or other skilled professional workers that are critical to the regions industries.

SLIDE 4: WHAT WE DO

When we were launched in 1989 as CSU's 20th campus, the founders did not look back at the history of higher learning. Instead, they looked ahead to the future, and they placed the education of students for the 21st century as our cornerstone. Our students engage in assignments that take them into the community and provide them real-life experiences in the workforce. In fact, this past year, our students' service total rose to 104 thousand hours, valued at 830 thousand dollars! By the time they graduate, Cal State San Marcos students possess skills for critical thinking, communication, and collaboration. They recognize and respect different perspectives, backgrounds and beliefs. And they are at home in the multicultural world in which they live.

In 2007, our community-centered curriculum and our community partnerships received official recognition by The Carnegie Foundation, who designated us with its Community Engagement Classification. This was the first time any university was so named, and we are proud to be one of only 76 such universities nationwide.

SLIDE 5: MEMORANDA OF UNDERSTANDING

So, at Cal State San Marcos, we are actively creating pathways so that more students can arrive at our doors prepared and leave our university with the skills they need to be successful in the rapidly changing global environment. Let me give you some examples:

We are reaching out to the K-12 community. We are striving to make sure that young people know they have pathways to our university, and that the pathways are accessible and affordable.

We encourage the A-G sequence of high school coursework because we know it prepares students for the rigors of the college curriculum. Superintendent Holt shared with you the success of the PACE program. We have signed similar agreements with other school districts that have high diversity and low high school graduation rates; with the San Pasqual Academy for foster youth; with 2 counties for Foster Youth, and with a Native American tribe.

These agreements guarantee admission for students who follow the prescribed path and do well in their studies. We know these are the kind of students who will have the tools for academic success, and we know that if these students are not prepared, or if they drop out of high school – that we all pay in many ways.

SLIDE 6: VETERANS AND ACTIVE DUTY

Cal State San Marcos is a place for our military veterans and active duty members. Over 600 of our students have self-identified as active-duty personnel, veterans, or their dependents.

We are an active participant in California's Troops to College initiative, which recruits and supports our active and retired military to attend and succeed in college. We opened a Veteran's and Active Duty student center last fall to serve and support those who have served our country. The center provides valuable resources including assistance with applying for education benefits and academic advising, and it is a place where students can build friendships and relationships as they share their experiences and stories.

SLIDE 7: ACE SCHOLARS FOSTER YOUTH

We're also the place for foster youth to get their degree. We are reaching out to and engaging these learners whose pathways to higher education are not easy. ACE Scholars participate in our Summer Bridge Program and receive academic and skill-based workshops, a structured First Year Experience, and educational counseling. The program also works closely

with University Housing to ensure student housing—an important consideration for foster youth “aging out” of the foster care when they are 18.

We graduated three ACE foster youth scholars this past year, and we have thirty on campus this Fall.

SLIDE 8: OBRT

Cal State San Marcos has created several pathways for students interested in the critical fields of science, technology and mathematics. One example, our Office for Biomedical Research and Training (OBRT) provides an environment for student and faculty development in the biomedical sciences and related disciplines. Participants perform original scientific research and present their findings at scientific meetings. Students are introduced to a broad range of scientific disciplines and are provided with networking opportunities with representatives of some of the nation's top research universities.

OBRT's BRIDGES Program is a partnership with Palomar College or MiraCosta College. The program involves students in several activities to strengthen their academic skills for careers in the biomedical sciences and provide a seamless transition to a four-year university. Students attend seminars, participate in the Biomedical Club, and conduct research, and they are provided comprehensive academic advising.

SLIDE 9: NURSING EDUCATION

To address the critical nursing shortage in our region, we partnered with Palomar-Pomerado Health to create a School of Nursing. PPH donated \$2.5 million for the formation of the School. The partnership expanded to include Kaiser, Tri City Hospital and Southwest Health Care. Now the School of Nursing is thriving. We have over 300 nursing students in five different programs, and we just graduated our first cohort of 125 nursing students; of which only 44 were through state support. Every single one of these graduates has been placed in working positions in the healthcare industry.

SLIDE 10: SENIOR EXPERIENCE

Our Senior Experience Program is one of the signature programs in our College of Business. The program matches teams of students with projects submitted by local businesses and organizations. Students gain by working as consultants on rigorous, real-world projects that require teamwork and application of classroom knowledge. Businesses gain by receiving

concentrated attention from bright, energetic teams that provide a fresh, independent look at their projects.

Since its inception 16 years ago, students have worked on 1100 projects and provide 1.3 million community service hours.

SLIDE 11: CONTINUING EDUCATION

Our Extended Learning program extends Cal State San Marcos to the community. High demand degree programs, workforce training and professional certificate programs. Our Osher Lifelong Learning Institute offers nearly 1,000 adult learners over 100 courses a year at 15 regional locations.

SLIDE 12: 20 YEARS

In our short history, Cal State San Marcos has developed programs and built partnerships with this community to create pathways – for our region’s youth and for those wishing to continue their education.

Funding to the CSU was reduced by some \$564 million for 2009/10. Cal State San Marcos’ share of that reduction was \$14 million. Over 5500 qualified applicants received notification that their opportunity was denied. I know you recognize how vital Cal State San Marcos is to this region and how vital higher education is to California’s future. I remain committed to serving as many students as possible and providing a quality education. I am balancing the need to address this budget crisis with the commitment to continue building for our future.

In 2010, Cal State San Marcos will cross a milestone – our 20th anniversary. Despite the challenges of the state fiscal crisis, we are approaching our 20th anniversary with optimism, and with a renewed sense of our future potential. We have set our anniversary theme to reflect that optimism and determination. Cal State San Marcos will not just promise to *advance* into our 20s. We will rise above that with a pledge to go “ROAR-ing Into Our 20s!”

But we cannot “ROAR” alone! We need other voices to “ROAR” with us! Just as Cal State San Marcos was launched in the last century with the support and dedication of this region, we will mark our 20th anniversary by asking North County for a renewed commitment to your university, to its mission, and to its regional impact.

We invite you to be part of advocacy and part of the festivities. This is a tremendously important and exciting time for Cal State San Marcos and for the region we serve.