



Dear CSUSM Employees,

Following my message yesterday on the events of Jan. 6, I hope that you continue to take care of yourselves and are staying safe and healthy in the midst of the current COVID-19 surge. Today, I write with some better news. This morning, Gov. Newsom unveiled his 2021-22 state budget proposal. While it did not fully restore all the cuts made to the CSU's budget last year, it did reveal a more optimistic picture than previously anticipated thanks to an increase in state tax revenues this year.

The governor's \$227 billion plan includes **\$144.5 million in new recurring funding** for the California State University system which exceeds expectations and renews optimism in these challenging times. The funds need to be spent in the following ways:

- \$111.5 million for general operating costs (a 3 percent increase to the CSU state appropriation);
- \$15 million for Graduation Initiative 2025 (Basic Needs Initiative);
- \$15 million for student mental health and technology needs;
- \$2 million to support a common learning management system (Canvas) across higher education segments; and
- \$1 million for enrollment funding for Stanislaus State's Stockton Center.

In addition, the proposal includes approximately \$55 million that will be passed through to CalPERS for retirement healthcare benefits.

The governor also proposed **\$225 million in one-time funds**, categorized as follows:

- \$175 million for deferred maintenance, energy efficiency and facility improvement projects;
- \$30 million for student emergency assistance grants;
- \$10 million for Monterey Bay's Computing Talent Initiative; and
- \$10 million for professional development.

The proposal includes several programmatic and policy expectations of the CSU, including maintaining tuition and fees at existing levels, closing equity gaps by 2025, and better aligning student learning outcomes with workforce needs, among others.

In other good budget news, the governor's plan addresses other key priorities, including vaccinating people against COVID-19, reopening K-12 schools, supporting small businesses, providing stimulus payments to low-income individuals, and preparing for wildfires.

At this point, we can take a moment to exhale. **With this proposal, the Chancellor's Office will likely provide campuses with their initial budget allocations by early March.** However, lawmakers must still vet the governor's proposal and vote on it, a process that usually isn't completed until mid-June so the budget can take effect July 1. Another milestone will be the governor's May revision to his budget which provides an updated budget proposal based on the economic and revenue outlook of the state. I am committed to continuing to consult and share as more information becomes available.

While we continue to face many challenges as we emerge from the many impacts of COVID-19, I am hopeful for our ability to drive our mission forward. Please know that my priorities will continue to be on our people, the success of our students, and the long-term sustainability of our institution. I welcome your thoughts at pres@csusm.edu.

Sincerely,

Ellen Neufeldt
President

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