



Dear CSUSM community,

As many of you know, over the spring semester, we engaged in national searches for our next vice president of University Advancement and our next chief diversity officer. Today I'm pleased to share with you that I've appointed Jessica Berger to serve as our vice president of University Advancement and executive director of the CSUSM Foundation. Next week, I look forward to announcing our chief diversity officer.

Jessica is currently the assistant vice president for development at Harvey Mudd College (HMC) in Claremont, Calif., where she leads a team of talented professionals and oversees all development-related activity in the Office of College Advancement. In her role at HMC, she has launched new initiatives to strengthen donor stewardship, helped enhance HMC's visibility and fundraising efforts, and collaborated with faculty, staff and deans to implement successful giving campaigns, contributing to the success of HMC's recent \$175 million comprehensive campaign.

In filling this role, it was important to me that we find someone who would not only bring a breadth of experience in the field, but would also be authentic in telling the CSUSM story while building meaningful relationships with all members of our internal and external community. I believe we have found that and more in Jessica. Not only is she extremely strategic and mission-driven, but I appreciate her strong connection and appreciation for our university's shared values as well as her keen understanding of the student body and region we serve.

I want to thank all those who participated in the process and shared input along the way. I especially thank our search advisory committee (Patricia Prado-Olmos, chair; Anna Fleming, UA staff rep; Jackie Trischman; Jocelyn Wyndham, UA-MPP rep; Margaret Chantung; Michael Losquerdo, CSU-Advancement; Raj Pillai; Sarah Aragon, student rep; Steve Wagner, CSUSM Foundation Board; and Theresa "Tere" Mendoza) for all of their efforts in this process. I also want to express my deep appreciation to Tere for stepping into the interim role last summer and for her ongoing partnership and leadership during the past 10 months. Finally, my gratitude to the University Advancement division for their wonderful spirit of resilience and teamwork during this time.

A virtual welcome reception will be organized over the summer to formally welcome Jessica to campus. In the meantime, please join me in congratulating her and welcoming her to the Cougar family.

Sincerely,  
Ellen Neufeldt  
President

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