



Dear campus community,

It is my pleasure to announce that Andres Favela, director of the Educational Opportunity Program (EOP), is the recipient of the 2023-24 Ernest and Leslie Zomalt Outstanding Service Award.

Andres has shown commitment to teamwork in every leadership position he has held throughout his 30-year career at CSUSM, and he serves as a prime example of social mobility on campus.

Since 1995, Andres has made a profound difference in the lives of students and staff. He helped develop our onboarding advising services and the first peer mentor program that we know today. Andres also has played a key role in shaping university policy on academic advising. In his role as EOP director, he has expanded the program to assist 1,500 first-generation and low-income students.

Andres is a consummate team player, stepping up in numerous ways throughout his career to help other areas around campus. Among his many contributions, he has served as interim coordinator of Project Rebound, interim director of the Career Center, interim director of ACE Scholars Services and interim director of the Latinx Center.

Andres is passionate about ensuring a seamless transition to guarantee success. His drive to uplift students and staff demonstrates his deep care for the CSUSM community. His collaborative spirit and nurturing of cross-functional teams across campus have been instrumental to his leadership impact, including serving as the interim associate vice president for Student Academic Support Services (SASS) through the end of this month. Andres' leadership in SASS has been vital to the retention and graduation services of CSUSM students.

The Zomalt Award, named for early CSUSM leaders Drs. Ernest and Leslie Zomalt, honors the significant achievements of an individual who exemplifies our university's mission through service to our campus community.

Dr. Ernest Zomalt began his service at CSUSM as the Dean of Students in 1990, was promoted to vice president for Student Affairs in 1991 and agreed to serve as executive vice president in 1993 until he retired in 2000. Dr. Leslie Zomalt created the advising services area for the College of Arts and Sciences and served in a leadership capacity for advising services from 1990 until her retirement in 1999. Upon their retirement, the Zomalts established an endowment to recognize contributions made by

outstanding staff and administrators to the success of CSUSM.

Andres Favela embodies the spirit of this honor, and it is a privilege for me to bestow the Ernest and Leslie Zomalt Outstanding Service Award on him. Please join me on Jan. 18 as we recognize Andres and all our 2023-24 faculty and staff award recipients at the CSUSM Awards and Service Celebration.

Sincerely,

Ellen Neufeldt
President
