

The BFSA Voice



UNITED IN PURPOSE

Transition Issue - Summer 2026

On June 26th, 2026, a letter was sent to President Neufeldt from the *Concerned Members of the Black Campus Community* (Faculty, Staff, Students, Alumni, Campus and Community Partners) calling for her to:



ESTABLISH A BLACK CAMPUS LEADERSHIP COUNCIL & STRENGTHEN INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORT FOR THE BLACK CAMPUS COMMUNITY



DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT A COMPREHENSIVE STRATEGY FOR RECRUITING, ONBOARDING, SUPPORTING, AND RETAINING BLACK FACULTY AND STAFF



INITIATE A FORMAL REVIEW OF THE BLACK STUDENT CENTER'S REPORTING STRUCTURE & EVALUATE ITS ALIGNMENT WITH THE OFFICE OF INCLUSIVE EXCELLENCE, OR A SIMILARLY ALIGNED DIVISION



DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT CLEAR INSTITUTIONAL PROCEDURES FOR PREVENTING AND RESPONDING TO ANTI-BLACKNESS, EXCLUSION, HYPERVISIBILITY, AND RACISM

[Click here to read the full letter sent to President Neufeldt](#)

PW: BFS92078

[Click here to read the reply from President Neufeldt](#)

PW: BFS92078_2

[Read "Anti-Black Racism at a Public HSI" by Dr. Elise and Dr. Walkington](#)

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DO YOU KNOW WHAT COABSS STANDS FOR?

The Central Office for the Advancement of Black Student Success (COABSS) is a systemwide office that supports all CSU campuses by developing and coordinating initiatives intended to improve the educational experiences and outcomes of Black students.

It's primary responsibilities include:

- Supporting Black student success by identifying and promoting effective programs and practices across CSU campuses.
- Providing funding and technical assistance to campus Black Student Success Centers and related initiatives.
- Building collaboration among faculty, staff, administrators, and community partners through statewide networks and training.
- Collecting and sharing data on Black student achievement, retention, and graduation to help campuses improve outcomes.
- Implementing SB 1348, a California law establishing the process for recognizing qualifying colleges and universities as Black-Serving Institutions (BSIs). COABSS helps develop the determination criteria and supports campuses pursuing that status.

WHY COABBS WAS CREATED?

The office was created in response to recommendations from the 2023 CSU Black Student Success Report, which identified barriers affecting Black students and called for systemwide efforts to improve access, retention, graduation, and campus climate.

THE MIC DROP (Summary).

COABBS is a central administrative and support office within the CSU system whose mission is to coordinate resources, policies, and programs aimed at advancing Black student success across all CSU campuses.



A Message of Gratitude

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Black Faculty and Staff Association Family and Friends –

I want to acknowledge that this has not been an easy season because as a collective and as a campus, we have experienced hurt, disappointment, uncertainty, and loss. We've been forced to process emotions that many people outside of our community may not ever fully understand. I hope that these moments, remind you that our greatest strength has never has always been each other and the community that we have continued to nurture and grow.

Yesterday, marked the end of my 2-year term as President of the Black Faculty and Staff Association; a role that I never took lightly. Upon stepping into the role of President, I knew that something was calling me to do that and I also knew that the way that I was going to lead the BFSA was going to be different in some ways from the past – I knew that I wanted to center Black artistry, I knew that I wanted to center faculty and staff support knowing that would impact the way that we support our students, I knew that I wanted to bring my own personality to the BFSA. In every moment and even when I had nothing else, I tried to show up simply remembering those things. I have had the opportunity to be a member, BFSA Vice President, and BFSA President over the last four years and now standing on the opposite coast, I can say with great certainty that the BFSA reminded me of my purpose.

On days where I felt the weight of the world was on my shoulders, on days where life and work felt overwhelming, on the days where I questioned my leadership or questioned if I was engaging with the collective in the deepest way that I could...I turned to prayer and I reminded myself, "Kevane, trust the process!" I had to trust that all of the work that I was doing, the work that all of us were doing was enough. The BFSA...EACH OF YOU, gave me encouragement when I needed to be reminded that I was not in this alone. The BFSA reminded me of the incredible power that exists within our community when we remember what is truly important – one another! I would never take sole credit for any of the work that we did as a collective and any successes that were celebrated, I know that it is because of our collective effort and energy.

In these final words, I would like to offer the following: CONTINUE SHOWING UP, CONTINUE COMING TO MEETINGS, CONTINUE ATTENDING BFSA EVENTS, CONTINUE CHECKING ON EACH OTHER, CONTINUE BUILDING AND NURTURING OUR SPECIAL LITTLE COMMUNITY, CONTINUE LEANING IN, and finally, NEVER UNDERESTIMATE THE IMPORTANCE OF YOUR PRESENCE, because it matters! The idea of showing up for yourself, each other, and our community is the difference between you or someone else in our community feeling invisible vs. feeling seen or you or someone else in our community believing that you belong here vs. deciding that you don't.

My BFSA Family, thank you for trusting me to lead. Thank you for believing in me. Thank you for extending grace when I needed it. Thank you for challenging me to think differently. Thank you for celebrating Black Joy and Black Excellence with me. Thank you for your partnership over the last few years. Thank you for allowing me to grow, to learn, to lead, and to love alongside you. Most of all, thank you for changing my life. I leave this role with a very full heart and a very grateful heart.

♦.Thank You.♦

Kevane La'Marr Coleman

We can never
achieve greatness
alone