

Throughout the fall semester CHABSS faculty, staff, students, and community supporters provided input on themes from the university strategic plan, [*The Power of CSUSM*](#). That input undergirds our work this semester as we integrate CHABSS into the university's inspirational plan for the future.

As we engaged in this process of developing objectives that will drive CHABSS priorities for the next five years, I was struck by the glimmerings of our shared vision that are being infused across the university. Reflecting on our dynamism and our diversity, I kept returning to three phrases that, for me, express our emerging vision. These inspire me as we work collectively to shape, live out, and celebrate the distinctive focus of CHABSS.

The first is **Ignite Your Curiosity**. We come to this campus to ask questions, to inquire, to begin or continue a journey toward making a positive difference in our communities and therefore our world. One Reks shared their journey of change and inspiration that reached a high point by winning the annual [President's Student Champion Award for Inclusive Excellence and Diversity](#) in October. Students in the Theatre Arts Program are able to take a course titled [TA 403: Career Skills in Theatre](#). In this course, students learn each week from a different professional from the world of theater, film or television for a virtual lecture about their craft. Sometimes our students arrive on campus having already traveled a difficult path. But with an amazing work ethic, a positive outlook and a caring community, students like Bri Phillips discover that at CSUSM [inspiration can be right around the corner](#).

The second is **Discover Your Passion**. Our faculty are experts in their respective fields, and our staff is dedicated to truly making this campus feel like home to everyone. Not only is history professor Alyssa Goldstein Sepinwall a renowned expert in Haitian history, particularly the Haitian Revolution, she devoted hours of her personal time recently to [help master's student Kasandra Balsis](#) revise her submission and fine-tune her presentation for the CSU student research competition. Psychology professor Kim Pulvers has [dedicated her career](#) to reducing the risk of smoking, helping people stop smoking, and researching tobacco control policy while helping dozens of her students advance to postgraduate education in the field. A tragedy 20 years ago inspired communication lecturer Jennifer Mellow to turn to [quilt making as a therapeutic](#). Last fall, professor and anthropological archaeologist Jon Spenard [developed a series of hands-on activities](#) to teach his students about first-century technologies. In his class, each student had the opportunity to shape a tool using obsidian, a rock sharper than surgical steel.

The third phrase is **Change the World**. We strive to send our students into positions and places where they can positively impact their surroundings. We challenge them to

make an impact on the world and then celebrate them when they do. A communication and environmental studies alum, Logan Davidson saw his mental health struggles reappear on a large scale during the pandemic. So he started a company called [Queer Conscious](#) that began humbly as a meet-up group for the LGBTQ+ community and has evolved into [a wellness and life coaching venture](#) with dozens of clients from around the world. Joshua Foronda had a 0.6 grade-point average during the spring of his freshman year but worked to obtain degrees in criminology and justice studies and sociology in 2018 with an overall 3.3 GPA. Today, [Foronda uses his experiences](#) as an undergraduate to help a new generation of CSUSM first-year students in his role as a student success coach for the [Office of Success Coaching](#).

Whether you find us through general education, one of our 25 majors, 34 minors, five graduate programs, or five certificates, CHABSS is with you every step of the way. **Ignite Your Curiosity. Discover Your Passion. Change the World.**