



# Family Newsletter

## A Parent's Perspective

When our son, Andrew, began his college career at Cal State San Marcos in the fall of 2020, my wife, Marietta, and I had high hopes that this university would be a good fit for him. We wanted him to find a supportive, welcoming and caring environment that would encourage both his academic and personal development. While the global pandemic made for a challenging beginning, we are happy to share that our son has found a home at CSUSM.

Our sophomore communication major and theater minor lives in campus housing with five friendly roommates who regularly make use of the nearby recreational facilities, and are starting to venture out to exciting campus activities like the open mic night that the theater club hosts every Friday.

Andrew's connection to CSUSM began with New Student & Family Programs' orientation event in the summer before his freshman year. He met an outstanding student leader in his virtual small group who encouraged him to be himself. The O-Team leaders, overseen by Christiana Moen, have continued to impress since that initial interaction. They served as a welcoming presence at convocation in August and again during Family Weekend last month. They have offered great advice (like visiting professors during their office hours), answered numerous questions, and encouraged Andrew to explore student leadership opportunities and on-campus employment.

As our family thinks about participating in CSUSM Giving Day 2021, we have committed to supporting New Student & Family Programs and the O-Team with a donation. We encourage you to join us in supporting this outstanding group of students for all they do for CSUSM students and their families. We know our support will enhance their continued leadership development and reward them for their service to the campus community.

Go Cougars!

Michael Minjares, CSUSM Family Ambassador



## Director's Note

This November, I give my thanks to O-Team. Year round they are welcoming students and families to our community, building Cougar pride, and supporting folks with resources. I know firsthand how this leadership role transforms a student's college experience because I was an orientation leader myself. I give to this team because they give so much to our community. Nudge your student to join our team and join me in giving back to these amazing volunteer student leaders on Giving Day, Nov. 30.

Christiana Moen, director, New Student & Family Programs



### STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Serenity Pulido,  
fourth year

**Major:** Sociology; criminology and justice studies

**Activities:** [Student Employee](#), [Greek Life](#), [Tukwut Leadership Circle](#), [Orientation Team](#)

#### Why I love O-Team

**CSUSM:** Because it truly feels like a family. Everyone is super encouraging and wants to help others, and it shows.

**How O-Team has impacted me:** After completing my first year as an O-Teamer, I developed more confidence and interpersonal and leadership skills. O-Team is a unique experience that I would recommend to anyone hoping to get involved and learn more about leadership.

## Did you know?

- Encourage your student to check the [enrollment information](#) for classes in spring 2022.
- [CSUSM as One](#) provides helpful information and links regarding COVID-19 updates and protocols.
- Send in a recipe to share – an easy weekday meal for students to replicate or a favorite family holiday dish. Email them by Dec. 1 to [families@csusm.edu](mailto:families@csusm.edu).

### UPCOMING EVENTS

#### Family Webinar Series

- Fitness and Nutrition, Dec. 8

[RSVP](#) online

### IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES

- **Nov. 25-26:** Thanksgiving holiday (campus closed)
- **Nov. 30:** CSUSM Giving Day

### FAMILY RESOURCES

- Our [Parents/Families website](#) offers helpful links and information to keep you in the loop with your students.
- The [CSUSM Family Handbook](#) contains information about the many resources CSUSM offers.
- The [Cougar Care Network](#) provides information and connection to resources, advocacy and support for students experiencing challenges.
- The [2021-22 academic calendar](#) highlights key dates throughout the fall and spring semesters.

We'd love to hear from you. Feel free to email us your comments, questions and suggestions at [families@csusm.edu](mailto:families@csusm.edu) or [familia@csusm.edu](mailto:familia@csusm.edu).

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