

BECAUSE OF YOU...



A PLACE OF INNOVATION AND OPPORTUNITY FOR ALL

For our students, over 51% of whom are first-generation, achievement in college is much more than a diploma. It sends the strong message of "Yes, you can!" to those who follow in their footsteps.

Because of your generosity and the combined generosity of so many others, our students are equipped to follow the guiding light of their dreams: for themselves, their families, and their communities. They are the trailblazers of tomorrow, and you are helping them lead the way!

Thank you for making CSUSM students a priority in your philanthropy this year and lifting them up to achieve success.

Ellen Neufeldt
President



Donor support allows nearly 40 students to participate in on-campus research labs as part of the STEM Summer Scholars program



**NEARLY
\$1.2M**

awarded in
donor-funded
scholarships



**OVER
50,000**

alumni in
the Cougar
family



\$57,600

raised on One
CSUSM to benefit
54 different
scholarships



INNOVATION

The Innovation Challenge, sponsored by donors to the CSUSM Innovation Hub, fosters real-life solutions to specific issues in our communities. LeRhonda Triplett '21 won the fall 2020 challenge for her passion project and new company, Where's the Party (WTP). "Our goal for WTP is to revolutionize event planning and social events, providing a unique customer experience that will connect people worldwide."

ARTS AND CULTURE

Thanks to donor support, the School of Arts welcomed 10 visiting Black, Indigenous, and artists of color to provide guest lectures, master classes and community performances that reached more than 300 students and 600 community members. These underrepresented artists shared their perspectives and encouraged reflection and action on social justice issues.

"I never would have imagined that sound itself has racial components; it was not something I was aware of before."

— Sierra L., CSUSM student, on Frente 3 de Fevereiro, an artist collective based in Brazil.



STUDENT SUCCESS

Bolstered by philanthropy, the Faculty Mentoring Program pairs first-generation college students who are at risk of not reaching graduation with a faculty member to increase retention rates. 100% of first-time freshman who participate in the Faculty Mentoring Program persist to their second year of college!

ENGINEERING

Philanthropic investment made it possible for us to launch our engineering program which now boasts a 90+% retention rate for our underrepresented minority students and transfer students.

CSUSM has become a beacon for students in our region offering wrap-around services, like a summer bridge program and a dedicated academic advisor, that retain students and encourage them to keep aiming high.



ATHLETICS

On CSUSM Giving Day 2020, nearly 1 in 5 gifts supported athletics scholarships, encouraging our student-athletes to shine in the classroom. Nearly 50 student-athletes received the prestigious Mangrum Award for Academic Excellence for earning a 4.0 grade-point average.

SOCIAL MOBILITY

Giancarlo Vallejo '18 and his family moved to the U.S. from South America for the opportunity to thrive. Like so many CSUSM students, Giancarlo was a nontraditional student. His path began at CSUSM in 2001 and took nearly two decades to complete. In between was service in the Marines, a readjustment to civilian life and, finally, a return to CSUSM. Thanks to donor funded programs like the Educational Opportunity Program's Summer Bridge, Giancarlo achieved success and launched his own biotechnology company based in San Diego. He is thankful for his life experiences and how CSUSM helped prepare him for a rewarding career.

