

April 23, 2018



From the Dean's Desk...

Welcome to the inaugural Office of Undergraduate Studies' (OUGS) Newsletter! Informed by research from a group of faculty, staff, and students, in the fall of 2014, our Provost launched the Office of Undergraduate Studies. Since then, we have been busy writing grants and leading initiatives and programs, in partnership with many of you, with a single goal in mind: CSUSM students' academic success. [Read More...](#)



Centers for Learning and Academic Success Services

CLASS includes six learning centers, each highlighted below, led by a director and staffed by 95 students who are trained as peer educators. These peer educators are the heart of the academic support provided in each of these centers. In fact, during the 2016/17, CSUSM students made more than 40,000 visits to these centers. [Read More...](#)

CLASS Strategic Plans: We welcome your feedback by April 30th!

Over the past 18 months, faculty, staff, and students have joined us in developing strategic plans for each of our six learning centers described below. [Read More...](#)



Academic Success Center

www.csusm.edu/asc

As the newest center in CLASS, ASC programming is evolving. We have focused on developing and launching five faculty liaison programs in addition to supporting multiple innovative student-focused initiatives that complement the classroom learning experience. [Read More...](#)

Academic Success Center - Kalkog 2123



Language Learning Center (LLC)/Language Other Than English Requirement (LOTER) Advising

www.csusm.edu/loter

The LLC (Kalkog 1107) works closely with Modern Language Studies Department instructors and their students to strengthen language proficiency and academic skills. The LLC also hosts LOTER advising and LOTER testing for all students. [Read More...](#)

Language Learning Center-Kalkog 1107



Math Lab

www.csusm.edu/mathlab

The Math Lab supports students in General Education B-4 and other lower-division math courses. The Math Lab operates on a drop-in basis where no appointments are needed. We encourage students to utilize the Math Lab as a collaborative study space where resources are available and tutors are ready to help. [Read More...](#)

Math Lab - Kalkog 1103



STEM Tutoring & Supplemental Instruction

www.csusm.edu/stemtuorng

www.csusm.edu/si

The STEM Tutoring and SI Programs are highly effective co-curricular resources for students to increase their academic success in historically difficult science and math courses. For some courses, this can mean the difference between passing and not passing! [Read More...](#)

STEM Tutoring & Supplemental Instruction-ACD 202



Writing Center

www.csusm.edu/writingcenter

The Writing Center provides students assistance in strengthening their overall reading and writing skills, thesis identification, style, and general topics such as personal statements and discipline-specific writing. [Read More...](#)

Writing Center- Kalkog 1103

OUGS Offers Congratulations!

Congratulations, First-Year Programs!

www.csusm.edu/1yp

The University of South Carolina's National Resource Center, national leaders for research on first-year students and students in transition, named CSUSM's Dr. Joanne Pedersen, Director of First-Year Programs, one of 10 Outstanding First-Year Student Advocates from across the country for the year. [Read More...](#)



Congratulations, TRIO McNair Scholars Program!

Fall 2017 CSUSM received a grant from the Department of Education to launch the **TRIO McNair Scholars program**. Led by the grant's principal investigator Dr. Denise Garcia, coordinated by Dr. Ray Maffavon-Borja, supported by the academic deans, and housed in the Office of Undergraduate Studies, the McNair Scholars program now supports 25 juniors and seniors. [Read More...](#)



McNair Scholar - Student Spotlight

Meet Ms. Nicole Toomey. Nicole is a student assistant in the Academic Success Center, Office of Undergraduate Studies and recently awarded the McNair Scholarship! Nicole is a 3rd year student majoring in Speech-Language Pathology. Nicole was inspired to select her major by her younger sister who has been diagnosed with Autism. We asked Nicole about what being a McNair Scholar means to her and the experience she has had working with Undergraduate Studies and the ASC. [Read More...](#)

CSU Graduation Initiative 2025

Visit GraduationInitiative2025 for more details about this CSU initiative and CSUSM's work towards the 2025 goals.



Grant Submissions & Awards

Submissions

NSF INCLUDES, Alliance proposal led by CSU, Fullerton—Submitted by Drs. Dawn Formo, Suzanne Hizer, and Wesley Schultz with Mira Costa as our community college partner. If awarded, this 5-year, \$1.5 million grant will help to strengthen the STEM pathway for students who transfer from Mira Costa Community College to CSUSM.

Awards

STEM VISTA Grant: Congratulations to Dr. Suzanne Hizer! With this award, we will hire a volunteer who will work with Dr. Hizer during the 2018/19 AY to reduce the barriers to academic success for first- and second-year biology and chemistry students with a focus on closing the equity gap for underserved students. For more information about the CSU STEM VISTA program, see <https://csustemvista.wordpress.com/about/>

Know a student who would make a great peer educator in one of the learning centers?

We welcome your student recommendations! Know that the simple gesture of recommending students for peer educator positions can be life-changing for those students. Your recommendations reinforce the potential you see in them. Feel free to [contact](#) the director of each center to offer your recommendations.

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