

Subject: Welcoming Andrea “Andy” Fisher, Vice President of University Advancement

Date: Tuesday, September 1, 2026 at 1:01:13 PM Pacific Daylight Time

From: Office of the President

To: Christine Paik



California State University
SAN MARCOS

OFFICE OF
THE PRESIDENT

Dear CSUSM community,

As many of you know, over the last year, we have been engaged in a national search for our next vice president of University Advancement and executive director of the CSUSM Foundation. Today, I am pleased to share with you that I have appointed Andrea “Andy” Fisher to serve in this important role.

Andy joins CSUSM from the University of Arizona, where she has served in a variety of development leadership roles since 2019, most recently as a vice president of development. In that role, she led centralized and college-embedded advancement teams and partnered with donors, faculty and university leaders to advance philanthropic initiatives supporting student success, research innovation and community engagement. She also played an integral role in planning and executing the university’s current multibillion-dollar fundraising campaign.

Andy brings more than 25 years of leadership experience spanning higher education philanthropy, nonprofit management and community service. Before entering higher education advancement, she served as CEO of the Centre County Youth Service Bureau in central Pennsylvania, where she led more than 90 employees across 14 programs serving children, youth and families.

In filling this role, it was important to me that we find a leader who could build upon the tremendous momentum already underway in University Advancement while also helping us envision what is possible for CSUSM’s next chapter. Our “Blueprint for the Future” campaign has now reached 87% of its \$200 million goal, thanks to the extraordinary generosity of our donors and community partners, as well as the efforts of our faculty and staff who have helped advance our grants and research efforts. We are at an important moment in this campaign and in the evolution of our university, and Andy brings the experience, leadership and relationship-building skills to help us reach this milestone and position CSUSM for continued philanthropic growth.

Just as importantly, Andy's personal connection to the transformative power of education resonates deeply with our mission of student success and social mobility. As a first-generation college student, she understands the difference that opportunity and support can make in a student's life. Her experience working directly with families and communities has shaped a donor-centered approach grounded in empathy, authenticity and long-term relationships. I look forward to partnering with her as we continue to strengthen relationships with our alumni, donors, Foundation Board, regional partners and friends of the university, as we build the support needed to advance the goals of our strategic plan and create even greater opportunities for our students.

I want to thank everyone who participated in the search process and shared their perspectives along the way. I am especially grateful to VP Leon Wyden, chair, and the members of our search committee for their thoughtful engagement and commitment to finding the right leader for this important role. I also want to express my appreciation to Michelle Rosenthal Clark for her leadership and partnership as our interim vice president of University Advancement. Her guidance has helped us during this transition and positioned the division well for the next chapter.

Finally, I want to thank the entire University Advancement team for its continued dedication, resilience and hard work. Reaching 87% of our campaign goal is an extraordinary accomplishment, and it reflects the collective efforts of many people across our university and beyond.

Andy will begin her new role this month. Please join me in welcoming her to CSUSM and the Cougar family. I look forward to introducing her to our campus community and working together to build on the tremendous momentum we have created.

Sincerely,

Ellen J. Neufeldt
President