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DATE: July 1, 2019  
TO: CSUSM Students, Faculty and Staff  
SUBJECT: A Message from President Neufeldt

Dear CSUSM Students, Faculty and Staff,

As I begin my first day on campus, I feel so fortunate to be a part of this tremendous community. You have made me feel like a member of the CSUSM family ever since my appointment was announced in March, and I am thrilled to officially join you as CSUSM's fourth president today. The heart of my career is about student access, student success and social mobility while working closely with the community. I was immediately drawn to CSUSM from seeing your commitment, energy and passion to those ideals, which align with my passions.

CSUSM has thrived with the dedication of each of you — our faculty, staff and students. I am grateful to Dr. Karen Haynes for her leadership and vision over the past 15 ½ years. Together you have shaped an institution that has become a gem of California: an in-demand university with a student-centered focus, quality academic programs, and strong community relations and initiatives. I am excited for us to build upon this strong legacy and mission, and am firmly committed to partnering with you to engage and empower our students, faculty, staff, alumni and friends throughout our region and beyond.

During my visit in April, you clearly showed me that as a campus community you value being a diverse and welcoming place, one committed to inclusive excellence and ensuring that we reflect the diverse region we serve. I know CSUSM has a longstanding commitment to diversity, educational equity and social justice. I am proud to be joining you in this important work as we continue to advance our inclusive excellence.

I have already begun to learn more deeply about this wonderful campus and the people who study and work here, and I will begin my official Listening and Learning Tour later this summer. I look forward to fostering relationships with many of you in the weeks and months ahead.

It is an honor to be part of the Cougar family and I am excited to join and partner with you in the next stage of our journey together!

Sincerely,  
Ellen Neufeldt, Ed.D.  
President