



Dear campus community,

It is my pleasure to announce that Regina Frasca, director of the Office of Safety, Health and Sustainability (SHS), is the recipient of the 2021-22 Ernest and Leslie Zomalt Outstanding Service Award. The Zomalt Award honors the significant achievements of an individual who exemplifies our university's mission through service to our campus community.

During her 23-year career at CSUSM, Regina has embraced campuswide safety, health and sustainability initiatives, supporting a culture of safety across our campus. When the COVID-19 pandemic brought forward unprecedented health and safety concerns for our university community, Regina responded with a tremendous amount of care and expertise to help guide our way forward.

In March 2020, Regina helped our university shut down safely as we pivoted to remote modalities – no small task considering our numerous vivarium labs and other specialized research spaces. While the campus was operating primarily virtually, she worked in conjunction with faculty and staff to create safe in-person access to labs and offices, ensuring SHS support to allow these spaces to be unattended for periods of time.

In the summer of 2020, Regina supported the repopulation of research facilities, constantly staying up to date on county, state and federal requirements. She helped develop the CSUSM Research Reactivation Committee (RRC), which created a process to allow faculty to safely restart their on-campus research and creative activities. Then, when some in-person courses for fall 2020 were approved, Regina stayed in close contact with instructional technicians to allow limited lab instruction to be delivered safely. She also arranged all that was needed in the labs for extra layers of safety, and much more. Her development of the “Covered Cougars” Center provided access to safety materials and personal protective equipment that were in otherwise short supply.

It must be noted that Regina accomplished all of this while continuing to monitor and support safety and health in all other areas across campus. The leadership she displayed during this period was extraordinary and involved countless extra hours of work amid the many demands. Her effort during this period truly displayed her commitment to our university.

Regina's efforts, along with the efforts of her top-notch team, have allowed our institution to grow into a nationally recognized leader in undergraduate research and creative activity – and do so safely and sustainably. This includes expanding CSUSM's research into the most cutting-edge areas while mitigating risk and protecting our students, faculty and staff from adverse events.

Perhaps the most significant example of leadership has been Regina's efforts to empower students and employees to build a culture of safety across our campus. She has worked to make sure everyone has access to training and support while helping them learn how to safely manage research and creative activity spaces.

I am honored to bestow the Ernest and Leslie Zomalt Outstanding Service Award to Regina Frasca. Please join me on Jan. 20 as we recognize Regina and all our 2021-22 faculty and staff award recipients at the CSUSM Awards and Service Celebration.

Sincerely,

Ellen J. Neufeldt, Ed.D.
President

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