



DATE: July 11, 2019

TO: CSUSM Faculty and Staff

SUBJECT: Reflections on Two Weeks at CSUSM

Dear CSUSM Faculty and Staff,

It's only my second week, but I am inspired and impressed by your commitment and talent. You have already extended a warm welcome, reaffirming everything that drew me to Cal State San Marcos.

I've already kicked off my Listening and Learning Tour with a series of formal and informal campus tours and visits where I've had the pleasure of meeting with many of you as well as students, alumni and friends.

Some of the highlights of my time on campus so far include:

- On my first day, touring two labs in Science Hall 1 and meeting dedicated faculty mentors and their students who are engaged in undergraduate research.
- A pop-in to Facility Services, where I toured the shops and met many of the employees who proudly maintain our campus. I was even given apples from our fruit trees near the University Services Building!
- A visit to the Extended Learning construction site, where I had the opportunity to meet some of the people who have worked tirelessly to bring this building from concept to completion. I also had a chance to meet with a few of our faculty members who will support some of the programs and services in the building once it opens next month.
- A walk through of the University Student Union, including the social justice centers, where I met some of our students and staff while getting a taste of student life and engagement on our campus.
- A stop at orientation to meet some other new faces: our incoming first-year students and their families! I enjoyed hearing what brought them to our university and look forward to seeing their success!
- Joined the Academic Affairs Senior Leadership Team at its annual retreat and engaged in conversation about shifting student demographics and topics in higher education nationally.
- Several other on-campus visits and tours, including one with prospective students and their families and even a trip to the Center for Children and Families to meet some of our youngest Cougar cubs!
- I've also had a chance to connect with some of our external community partners and friends, including San Marcos Mayor Rebecca Jones, who reaffirmed her commitment to our partnership.

In the weeks and months ahead, I look forward to sharing more updates with you and continuing my efforts to meet as many members of our diverse campus community as possible as part of my Listening and Learning Tour. I look forward to receiving your feedback on how we can ensure that we are continuing to move our university forward productively and positively.

It's already clear to me that you collectively share great pride and love for our students and our campus. I'm honored to be at such a special university with you.

Sincerely,

Ellen J. Neufeldt, Ed.D.
President