



AY 2022/23 REPORT

MISSION

To foster a community that inspires belonging, encourages personal and professional development, and connects staff to holistic services and support.

VISION

To create an environment where all staff feel valued and supported and are given the tools to thrive in their personal and professional lives, contributing to the culture of care embraced by the entire campus.

VALUES

Inclusive

We are committed to fostering a sense of belonging where each member of our diverse staff feels valued, respected and encouraged to bring their authentic selves to work.

Caring

We are committed to nurturing a compassionate atmosphere where we look out for one another in support of personal and professional success and well-being for all staff.

Collaborative

We are committed to building meaningful partnerships that connect our staff to the many resources available on and off campus.

Empowering

We are committed to supporting our staff, creating a space where their voices are heard, and providing the resources and encouragement for them to advocate for themselves.



Dec. 15, 2022 – When a frantic call for scissors went out before our Crafting & Cocoa event, our crafters answered.

GRAND OPENING OF COMMONS LOCATION



Feb. 23, 2023: Close to 100 members of the campus community joined us as we celebrated the grand opening of the Staff Center's new location in University Commons.

The Staff Center has become a popular place to stop in for lunch and breaks. It includes a conference room that seats 12, four distinct seating areas and a kitchen with a refrigerator and sink.

Having a physical location allows us to provide options in supporting our staff.

Visit our [events page](#) for more photos taken during our grand opening.

The Staff Center has been serving our non-MPP staff (further referred to as staff) virtually since September 2020. On Feb. 23, 2023, nearly 100 people gathered to celebrate the grand opening of the Staff Center's physical location in University Commons 109. We thank everyone who attended despite the cold and rainy weather!

The space previously occupied by the CSU Shiley Haynes Institute for Palliative Care in University Commons was divided by a wall creating the campus's new hoteling space and the Staff Center.



Employees enjoy lunch in the Staff Center.

ART GALLERY AND GIVING DAY



Feb. 23, 2023 – Ryan Dorsett, library services specialist, looks at a piece of art during our grand opening and art gallery unveiling event.

When the art gallery was first envisioned, the idea was to convert the walls of the Staff Center's conference room using a basic nail system to hang artist pieces. A special thank you to **Patrick Pelonero** from Facility Services for not only installing the framing system we now use, but for suggesting a more sustainable, long-term and cost-efficient option.

The grand opening event also celebrated the unveiling of our first art exhibit, featuring the art of six staff members. The mission of the art gallery is to recognize our incredibly talented staff outside of the office. For three of our staff artists, this was the first time they have exhibited their work publicly.



Patrick Pelonero, facilities maintenance mechanic, installs the framing system.

To raise funding for the framing system, the Staff Center joined CSUSM's Giving Day to raise \$2,000. With 15 donors, the **SchoolsFirst Federal Credit Union's** employee match and winning the Golden Bonus, made possible through a generous donation by **Nathaniel Keifer-Wheals**, we raised close to \$4,100. With the extra funding, we were able to retrofit six additional spaces in the main lobby in addition to the conference room, more than doubling the space to exhibit art.

Our first exhibit showcased a variety of art mediums, including acrylic and oil on canvas, photography and origami. A very special thank you to all our founding artists who donated their work for a semester.

To learn more about our founding artists, click on their photos below.

Founding Artists

 <p>Marilyn Huerta College of Education, Health and Human Services Academic Affairs</p>	 <p>Susie Martinez Human Resources Finance and Administrative Services</p>	 <p>Kelli Urabe University Communications Office of the President</p>
 <p>Joanne Macias Student Health & Counseling Services Student Affairs</p>	 <p>Noelle Reed Alumni Engagement University Advancement</p>	 <p>Criselda Yee Academic Programs Academic Affairs</p>

STAFF NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS COMMITTEE

The [Staff Nominations and Elections Committee](#) (SNEC) manages appointments for staff, non-faculty staff to campus committees such as Academic Senate and the Staff Center Committee. In April, the committee moved under the Staff Center's umbrella, giving members access to the resources and support offered by the center (such as our website and newsletter).

We will hold an election to fill the seats representing the following staff groups in July:

- CSU Employee Union (CSUEU)
- Academic Professional of California (APC)
- Teamsters
- Confidential employees
- CSUSM Corporation

Visit the [SNEC webpage](#) for information about the election process, current committee openings and elections.

BUDDY PROGRAM

The Staff Center's buddy program was piloted in October 2020, and over the next three years, the program has evolved to better support our new employees. Starting in March 2023, new employees are now matched with each other after filling out a survey that reveals fun interests they have in common. We ask what they like to read, eat, drink, do with their spare time, if they prefer a Mac or PC, sweet or salty, and even which Hogwarts house they belong to.

Eighteen employees have participated in the program since March, and overall the feedback has been very positive.

NETWORKING SOCIALS



March 16, 2023: The Staff Center's first brown-bag networking social.

On March 16, we held our first networking social, a brown-bag lunch with the Staff Center providing dessert. Socials were originally intended to occur once a month at different times and days of the week. However, given the interest in our brown-bag lunches, it was decided to hold our socials every other month during the lunch hour.

We have no formal agenda during our brown-bag networking socials. The goal is to give our staff an opportunity to get away from their desk and meet new people from different areas around campus.

Visit our [website](#) to learn more about upcoming socials and to RSVP.

CSUSM SYNERGY GROUPS

The CSUSM synergy groups provide campus employees an opportunity to network outside of their department while discussing fun topics.

Synergy groups cover a broad range of topics such as books, movies and TV, crafting, gardening, food, pets and Disney.

Many of our groups provide in-person options to network as well. The Living Sustainably group has a meet-up every few months at



The Living Sustainably synergy group regularly meets at the Campus Coffee cart. Staff are encouraged to bring their own cups.



March 10, 2023: The Crafters Synergy Group works on a project in the Staff Center.

the Campus Coffee cart. Those joining are encouraged to bring their own cup. Our Healthy Lifestyle group has a walking break at 11 a.m. and 3 p.m. every day, meeting in front of Kellogg Library. The Hiking and Great Outdoors group recently held a kayaking trip at Carlsbad Lagoon. And our Crafters group meets in the Staff Center every few months.

We invite all CSUSM faculty, administrators and staff to join the conversation. Visit our [CSUSM Synergy Group webpage](#) to learn more.

CENTER EVENTS

PAINTING PEACE ROCKS

On Aug. 24, 2022, we held our Peace Rocks event. Staff took a quick break from the day to paint.



GETTIN' DIRTY: SEED STARTERS

On Sept. 29, we held our second Gettin' Dirty event. Mike Geck hosted a hands-on experience creating seed starters.



SHOWCASE EVENT

The Staff Center's Showcase Event brings a group of panelists together to discuss their own personal experiences with a specific topic. This year's showcase panel, held on Oct. 28, discussed personal experiences with time management and self-care. Panelists included Shannon Honour Shaw, Finance and Administrative Services; Maria Shterew, Academic Affairs; Jennie Ruiz, Student Affairs; and Renzo Lara, Student Affairs.

CRAFTING AND COCOA

The Crafting and Cocoa event will always be known as the first. Not only was it the very first in-person event the Staff Center ever held, but it was also the first event held in our Commons location.

On Dec. 15, 2022, over 60 staff members crafted penguins, sipped some hot cocoa and nibbled on sweet treats. This continues to be one of our most popular events, combining crafts, networking and cocoa, of course.



BOOK CLUB FOR PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT



The Book Club for Professional Development invites staff to read a book on a professional development topic and then come together to discuss. In spring 2023, we read and discussed "Stop Overthinking: 23 Techniques to Relieve Stress, Stop Negative Spirals, Declutter Your Mind, and Focus on the Present" by Nick Trenton.

Nearly 60 books were handed out during our kickoff event.

COLLABORATIVE EVENTS

On Aug. 20, 2022, Char Booth, associate dean of the library, hosted a webinar about using inclusive language.

On Oct. 20, 2022, the Staff Center collaborated with CSUSM crafters to hold the Arts & Crafts fair.

SPECIAL THANKS

A huge shout out to the Staff Center Committee. Thank you for sharing your ideas and your support over the past year.

Brian Hiro, thank you for ensuring that our emails are nearly flawless. We know that if there is a typo, it is only because we didn't send it to you first to review.

Thank you to the Sustainability Program for always being up for collaborating. *Marissa Acosta* is one the facilitators for the Living Sustainably synergy group, and *Juliana Goodlaw-Morris* has hosted many events on sustainability.

Thank you to everyone who attended our grand opening and one of the many events we've held this year. We are here for you, and seeing so many of you in person warms our hearts and reminds us why we are doing this.

ROSTERS

STAFF CENTER COMMITTEE

Representing	Name	Title
Staff Center	Susan O'Connor	Director
CSUSM Corporation Representative		
CSUSM Corporation	Dorothy Davis	Executive assistant
Division Representatives		
Academic Affairs	Kayla Hardin	Academic scheduler, Planning and Academic Resources
Finance and Administrative Services	Noella Richer	Operations and work control analyst, Facilities Development and Management
Office of the President	Melinda Jones	Executive Affairs Specialist, Community Relations and University Engagement
Student Affairs	Jill Flaa	Student services specialist, Dean of Students
University Advancement	Christa Koen	Executive assistant, VP Office
Faculty Staff Association Representatives		
BFSA	Talisha St. John	President
LAFS	Alexa Diaz	President
JFSA	TBD	
APIDA	TBD	
LGBTQA FSA	TBD	
Staff Union Representatives		
CSUEU	Vanessa Vincent	President
	Mike Geck	Vice president and chief steward
APC	Valerie Ramirez	Chapter steward
Teamsters	Jayce Yardley	Shop steward
SUPA	Timothy Dow	President
Human Resources		
AVP	Erika Gravett	Human Resources and Payroll Systems

NEWSLETTER SUBCOMMITTEE

- Brianna Madson, Facilities Development and Management
- Amber Giacalone, Office of the Vice President for Finance and Administrative Services
- Saira Rivera, University Communications
- Noella Richer, Facilities Development and Management
- Susan O'Connor, Staff Center
- Yvonne Villalobos Copy, College of Humanities, Arts, Behavioral and Social Sciences

STAFF NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS COMMITTEE (AS OF AUGUST 2023)

- Michael Geck, CSUEU representative
- Lisa Carmosino, CSUSM Corporation representative
- Nicolas Morales, APC representative
- TBD, Teamsters representative
- TBD, SUPA representative
- TBD, confidential employee representative