



CSU Bakersfield

Monthly UPDATE

March 31, 2014

Vol. 9, No. 3

Chancellor Timothy White Addresses Downtown Rotary



CSU Chancellor Timothy White returned to Bakersfield as the guest speaker for the Downtown Rotary's March 13th luncheon. Also in attendance were **Jessica Darin**, Deputy Chief of Staff, Chancellor's Office, and members of the President's Cabinet, the CSUB Foundation Board of Directors, and the President's Community Advisory Council, as representatives of CSUB. Chancellor White addressed the state of higher education in California, challenges and opportunities ahead, the CSU's strategic priorities to meet these needs of the state, and CSUB's initiatives to meet the needs of the region. I have highlighted below his core message in each of these areas.

State of Education in California

In the 50+ years since **Assemblywoman Dorothy Donahoe** authored the resolution that created the Master Plan for Higher Education in California in 1960, the state's population has more than doubled to almost 40 million people, and the CSU population has grown more than 5 times. The CSU is twice the size of the UC, serving twice as many students on more than twice as many campuses. It is the largest university system in the world and has an annual operating budget of \$6 billion. We are the largest producer of undergraduate degrees in the state, producing 50% of all undergraduate degrees in the state of California, regardless of institutional type.

Challenges and Opportunities

The CSU experienced a massive \$1 billion cut in state support during the recession. The current level of state support to the CSU is identical to the funding we received 20 years ago, yet the CSU serves 120,000 more students than 20 years ago. As a result of the decline in state support, we doubled tuition, which only recovered half of the loss. We also increased class size. This coming year, about 284,000 students are seeking admission to the CSU, which is a 10% increase over just a few years ago. We will admit less than half that number, leaving a tremendous number of fully qualified California resident students unable to get into a campus because there are not enough resources.

Part of the discussion in Sacramento is to continue to point out that our needs are much more on the investment side of California's future. We do not see ourselves as a cost. When the CSU seeks money, it is not for the CSU; rather, it is for us to be a conduit to provide students the ability to earn the degrees the state needs to fuel the economy.

California's knowledge-based economy will face a 1 million degree gap in the number of degrees we produce today versus the needs of California just ten years from now. For us to meet the California challenge of more degreed people for the state, we will have to increase the rate of student success by almost 40% over the next 10 years.

CSU Strategic Priorities

Our priority is to get more students from across the fabric of society to a quality degree sooner. It is both a simple and complex challenge. Coming out of the recession, we have the opportunity to restore the way we used to be, which will not serve us going forward. Alternatively, we can rethink, redesign, and innovate the learning environment, research, and our engagement with communities in a way that is going to serve the future. We must be good for what is next and not great for things that used to matter.

The integration of the university and community is the only way forward. The days when we acted as ivory towers set apart that decided what people should study and what communities needed no longer works. Rather, we listen to the emerging needs of this community and add engineering programs, computer, petroleum engineering, ag business, as CSUB has, for example.

We are committed to increasing the degree completion rate by committing an additional \$50 million in seven strategic areas: 1) hire more permanent, highly qualified, well-trained, passionate faculty to work with our students and community; 2) strengthen advising, particularly for low-income and first-generation students; 3) clear bottleneck classes so that students can graduate on time; 4) ensure entering students are prepared to perform college-level academic work before they get into their major area of study; 5) employ high-impact practices that improve student retention, such as service-learning, undergraduate research, internships, and study abroad; 6) increase the use of information technology; and 7) get students to the degree sooner.

CSU Bakersfield Initiatives

CSUB is ahead of the game and already is investing in each of these areas. For example, the campus is capitalizing on the Chancellor's support to change the academic calendar from quarters to semesters. While going through the major exercise of changing the courses to fit a semester framework, in 70% of the academic programs the curricula are being remodeled, re-thought, and redesigned for the future. I commend the CSUB faculty and Academic Senate for making that forward-thinking decision.

Q&A

In response to a question from the audience regarding student debt, Chancellor White emphasized that while student debt in the U.S. is \$1 trillion, the CSU is not a driver of student debt. Over 55% of CSU students come from families who earn \$70k per year or less and qualify for financial aid. As a result of our financial aid packages and private philanthropic giving, these students pay \$0 in tuition fees. Only 34% have any debt at all and 66% graduate debt-free in the CSU. Those who do have debt average \$16,000 which is \$3,000 less than the California average for public schools and 25% less than the national average for public institutions.

The Downtown Rotary presented a \$500 gift to the CSUB Foundation in honor of Chancellor White's visit.

Central Valley Higher Education Consortium Meets re Common Core

The Central Valley Higher Education Consortium (CVHEC) is comprised of 27 public and private colleges and universities in the 10-county region from Stockton to Bakersfield. CVHEC's mission is to increase student access to, and



success in, higher education. The March "Closing the Achievement Gap" meeting in the South Valley Region took place at CSUB and engaged attendees in a review and discussion across educational sectors of the California Common Core State Standards, shifts in instructional approaches, and the Smarter Balanced Assessment. The group identified as priority actions across systems: assessment congruency; P-16 math articulation; articulation between K-12 and higher education expectations of skills; professional development; and PK-16 instructional shifts.

Participants at the meeting included chancellors, presidents, vice-presidents and deans of instruction, directors of curriculum and directors of outreach from the Bakersfield City School District; Bakersfield College; the Burton School District; Cerro Coso Community College; CSUB; CVHEC; Fresno State; Immanuel; Kern Community College District; Kern High School District; Mojave Unified School District; Porterville College; Porterville Unified School District; Sierra Sands; Summit Charter School; Taft College; Taft Unified School District; Tehachapi Unified School District; Tulare County; United Way of Tulare County; West High School; and Highland High School. This is an important collaboration to advance student success throughout the Central Valley.

President's Associates

The annual President's Associates Dinner was held this year on March 26th at the Petroleum

Thank You Club. The philanthropic giving of President's Associates members funds a \$2000 stipend awarded to top-ranking students' participation in the Student Research Scholars competition with guidance and support from faculty mentors. Undergraduate student research is a high-impact practice for student retention and success that enriches the student learning experience and is a hallmark of the CSU. The

2013-14 Student Research Scholars are: **Linda Anderson, Tyler Carcamo, Sara Freeman, Esther Ibarra, Imelda Ibarra, Alyssa Kaess, Gurleen Kaur, Courtney Libben, Justin Martinez, Jonathan Schultz, Amandeep Sidhu, and John Wilson.** Faculty mentors are: **Antje Lauer, Robert Horton, Kathy Szick-Miranda, Linda Davis, Dirk Baron, Anna Jacobsen, and Danielle Solano.**

GRASP Student Research Scholars

For fifteen years, the Office of Grants, Research, and Sponsored Programs (GRASP) has provided CSUB students and recent graduates the opportunity to demonstrate the knowledge and skills they have gained through scientific discovery, scholarly research, and creative activity. By competing in the oral and poster competitions at the annual Student Research Competition, students demonstrate their ability to think critically, problem-solve, defend their research, and present their findings to scientific jurors and the general audience. The top three students in each category receive monetary awards. In addition, the top two in each category advance to the next level of competition in May:

Physical and Mathematical Sciences

Undergraduate

1st Place – Tyler Carcamo

2nd Place – Justin Thornton

Graduate - 1st Place – John Wilson

Biological and Agricultural Sciences

Undergraduate

1st Place – Abdelhamid Dalia

2nd Place – Imelda Ibarra

Graduate – 1st Place – Justin Martinez

Behavioral and Social Sciences

Undergraduate

1st Place – Gokh Alshaif and Noor Qwfan

2nd Place – Daniel Markendorf

Engineering and Computer Sciences

Undergraduate

1st Place – **Alfonso Puga**

2nd Place – **Josh Ward, Suleiman Alkadashee, and Sean Acord**

CSUB President's Medal

Each year at the President's Associates Dinner we also present the CSUB President's Medal to



an outstanding individual(s) or entity(ies) for their leadership, service, and commitment to the university. We congratulate this year's deserving recipient, **Greta Lydecker**,

Vice President, Chevron North America Exploration and Production Company, San Joaquin Valley Business Unit. She also is the Executive Sponsor of Chevron's global heavy oil research & development portfolio which includes oversight of Chevron's International Heavy Oil Center located here in Bakersfield. Greta earned a B.S. in Geology from Allegheny College and an M.S. in Geophysics from Boston College, and has more than 30 years of experience with Chevron in a variety of technical and managerial assignments, including General Manager of Operational Excellence and President of Chevron Environmental Management Company. We presented the medal to Greta at the Chevron recognition reception described below. For more information about the President's Associates, please visit:

<http://www.csub.edu/advancement/PresAssoc/>.

Chevron Recognized for STEM Support

Faculty, staff, students, and community members gathered in the Dezember Reading Room of the Walter Stiern Library to recognize Chevron's generous corporate giving in support of programs in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) at CSUB. To date this fiscal year, Chevron's giving totals \$2.125 million and funds several programs, including:



\$1,000,000 - Engineering Programs

CSUB engineering programs include: Pre-Engineering; Engineering Sciences with an Emphasis on Engineering Management, Petroleum Engineering, or Biosystems & Agricultural Engineering; Computer Engineering, and Electrical Engineering.

\$500,000 - Research Experience Vitalizing Science - University programs (REVS-UP)

The program is designed to invigorate K-12 science teachers and high school students by engaging them in hands-on, original research with CSUB faculty during the summer. Teachers and students investigate scientific questions with research projects in biology, chemistry, computer science, engineering, geology, mathematics, or physics. At the program's end, teachers receive \$3,000 and high school students are eligible to receive a \$700 stipend. The program runs July 14 - August 7.

\$260,000 - CSUB-Chevron High School Academy

CSUB and Chevron partnered to offer qualified Kern High School District students the opportunity to enroll in a one-year beginning sequence of university-level courses in biology, chemistry, computer science, engineering, mathematics, and physics on the CSUB campus. KHSD students may earn up to 15 units. Courses are free and course credit is transferrable.

\$180,000 - Dual-Credit Physical Geology Classes

The course is taught by high school teachers trained in earth science, CSUB faculty, and professionals in the agriculture and petroleum industries and is offered at South High School and Ridgeview High School through the Kern High School District.

\$150,000 - NSME Student Center

The NSME Student Center, staffed by full-time advisors and student assistants, provides programs and services to support NSME

students. Services include pre-advising and registration assistance, with an overall goal of supplementing each student's academic education in a safe, secure, and accessible environment. Tutoring for individual subjects is available through the Sciences, Mathematics, and Engineering Tutoring Centers.

Third Three-year Review of the President

The CSU Board of Trustees and the Chancellor evaluate campus presidents every three years. My third three-year review was conducted at the end of last year, informed by input from faculty, staff, students, and community members and was reviewed by the Board of Trustees earlier this year. Thank you for your participation in the review process. You will find Chancellor White's open letter to the community regarding my evaluation at the following link: http://president.csub.edu/fil_files/277.pdf

Upcoming Events

Whether you are looking for academic, alumni, arts & culture, campus life, community, sports, or a calendar of highlight events, find them on [RunnerCal](#).

University Council

University Council is an open forum for members of the campus community to voice concerns or make suggestions for continued improvement. All faculty, staff, and students are welcome to attend. The next meeting of the University Council is scheduled for Friday, April 18, 2014 at 10:00 a.m. in the Albertson Room.

I look forward to seeing you around campus or at an upcoming University or community event. Take care.



Horace Mitchell
President