Good morning. I join each of the previous speakers in extending a warm welcome to each of you – our new, continuing, and returning faculty and staff from our main campus here in Bakersfield and our Antelope Valley Center – as we begin the 2010-11 academic year. I want to acknowledge those who are joining us this morning via live video stream over the internet. I hope you had an enjoyable summer with some time for relaxation, to enjoy the company of family and friends, to be re-energized, and for renewal of your spirit.

University Day gives us the opportunity to come together to reflect on our progress to date, identify the significant challenges and opportunities ahead, and outline our priorities and plans. It reinforces our tradition of working collaboratively toward the continued advancement of our vision for excellence. I appreciate the comments made by each of our University partners in the Academic Senate, CFA, staff unions, Staff Forum, and ASi. I look forward to our continuing work together.

Please join me in a moment of silence as we honor the memory and spirits of those members of our campus community, our families and our extended families who have passed since our last University Day. Thank you.

You have already met two members of the President’s Cabinet this morning – Dr. Soraya Coley, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs; and Mike Neal, Vice President for Business and Administrative Services. Let me now introduce the other three members of the Cabinet – Ms. Beverly Byl, Vice President for University Advancement; Dr. John Hultsman; Interim Vice President for Student Affairs; and Ms. Evelyn Young, Executive Assistant to the President who is still on vacation.

And, a special introduction – First Lady Barbara Mitchell. A few days ago, Barbara and I celebrated our 44th wedding anniversary. I have been blessed.

Please join me in thanking the planning committee for their time and diligence in organizing today’s University Day events. Would they please stand?

Our theme for last year’s University Day was “40 Years at CSUB: Creating Opportunities in Challenging Times.” It charged all of us to create and implement strategies that would assist us in continuing to make progress toward realization of our vision in spite of being hit hard by state budget reductions brought on by mis-
governance at the state level and the worst economic crisis in California since the Great Depression.

We all - faculty, staff, administrators, and students - pulled together in spite of furloughs, layoffs, salary reductions, fee increases, budget reductions and an environment of fiscal uncertainty. We served more students than ever before with a fall 2009 enrollment of more than 8,000 students. We graduated more than 1,500 students. Faculty continued to conduct research and other creative activities. Faculty and staff were heavily engaged in service to our community. Yes, you sacrificed to do it all. But at the same time, we were very clear in saying the academic quality of our programs was at risk and such extraordinary efforts could not continue without additional resources. I will say more about where we are now regarding the budget later in this presentation.

Our theme for this year is one with which I resonate completely and I hope you do as well. “Walking the Talk: From Vision to Evidence of CSUB Excellence” compels us to look beyond our well-stated vision which was adopted in 2004 and ask ourselves, “Are we walking the talk?” That is, “Are we doing those things which must be done in order to achieve our vision of excellence?” Further, it compels us to document the evidence.

Of course, as I said earlier, we have accomplished a great deal, some of which is well-documented, some of which remains only in the memory of those who worked hard to advance particular initiatives. Over the past few weeks I have been telling the Cabinet and our senior managers, “Let’s spend as much time talking about the evidence of what we have done to date as we spend in talking about what we plan to do”. This will be a constant theme for me throughout the year across all areas of the University.

Provost Coley has developed an excellent framework for moving us forward in this regard. She used that framework as it applies to Academic Affairs in a Provost Council retreat last week. I will work with the other vice presidents to replicate her process for the other divisions.

In addition to our need to document our progress for ourselves, as part of our strategic planning process, it is also necessary that we do so for our WASC Educational Effectiveness Review (or EER) for which we will be preparing this year. We must submit our EER report by Summer 2011. The EER team visit is scheduled for Fall 2011. You will hear much more about this in the weeks and months ahead.

Let me now give you updates on several topics and issues and leave time for Q & A’s at the end. As a reminder, I have issued the President’s Monthly Campus Update since January 2006 in order to keep the campus community informed on an on-going basis. Last month’s issue contains the latest information on a broad range of topics which I will not repeat in this presentation. So, I encourage you to read it when you have a chance because I am incorporating it into this presentation by reference.

I will cover these updates under six headings: (1) academic matters; (2) student matters; (3) athletics; (4) campus projects; (5) budget issues; and (6) enrollment planning.
Academic Matters

1. Realignment of Schools
   - Rationale
   - School of Arts & Humanities; School of Social Sciences & Education
   - Thank interim deans: Ed Sasaki & Craig Kelsey
   - New deans
   - Ribbon cutting

2. Academic Programs
   a. Ed.D.
   b. Health and Safety Concentration in Environmental Resource Management
      - Endowment from Aera Energy - $500,000
   c. Agribusiness – discussion with industry leaders to explore how we might respond to their needs within the scope of our existing academic programs
   d. Accounting
   e. STEM initiatives: Chevron gifts

3. Academic Calendar
   a. Background: quarters
   b. Spring discussions (quarters to semesters)
   c. Commitment to an impartial study of the relative merits of each system
   d. Timeline:
      - begin during the upcoming spring quarter
      - complete study and arrive at a decision point by Winter Quarter 2012
      - any change would be targeted for Fall 2013
   e. Major concerns
      - cost of PeopleSoft system conversion
      - need for faculty release time to revise curricula and courses
      - possible reduction in enrollment
   f. CSU Presidents’ discussions
   g. Campuswide dialogue

4. Non-state funding for faculty support
   a. CSUB Fund
      The CSUB Fund is an important annual giving program that is 100% funded by our community. It was specifically created to build a bridge between a good education and a great education by allowing the University to fill the gap between state allocated funds and the true cost of higher education. Contributions from alumni, parents, faculty, and other supporters are pooled to provide the University with unrestricted funds and the flexibility needed to respond to immediate academic needs.

      For the 2010 – 2011 year some of these immediate academic needs include providing financial assistance to CSUB students and faculty in the form of grants. The CSUB Fund will award grants of $500 or less to help pay for
things like equipment, travel costs, special projects and other academic needs. The Fund will reward innovation and excellence, and will provide students and faculty with financial assistance that would otherwise not be available. In return, we look forward to sharing the stories of your success that were made possible by the generosity of our community.

You will be hearing more about the CSUB Fund Grant Program in the coming days – including how to apply – but in the meantime I wanted to share this important program with you as just one example of the kind of important initiatives University Advancement is undertaking to support faculty.

b. President’s Fund for Academic Excellence - discretionary

Student Matters

1. New Student Convocation – Friday
2. Day of Caring – Saturday
3. First Year Experience Program
4. New student housing
5. Winter Commencement – discontinued

Athletics

1. Completion of reclassification to NCAA Division I
2. Search for new athletics director chair, John Hultsman
3. Conference membership – shifts

Campus Projects

1. Solar Energy Project

Sun Edison has installed a 1.0MW photovoltaic array in parking lots E & I. The project is being paid for by Sun Edison and the arrays will be owned and maintained by Sun Edison. They will sell the energy created by the arrays to the University under a 20 year contract at a rate approximately 5% below the current PG&E rate with a guaranteed maximum annual increase of 2%. The benefits to the University include: 1) stable supply and cost of approximately 30% of the campus electrical needs, and 2) significant reduction in the University's carbon footprint by reducing our consumption of electricity created by fossil fuel. A side benefit will be the creation of approximately 500 shaded parking spaces on campus.

Thank Mike Neal, Pat Jacobs and their staff for making sure this project was completed on time.

Campus Presentation planned.
2. Public Private Partnerships
   a. Office Building
      - Agreement to enter into a ground lease Bynum
   b. Hotel and Conference Center
   c. Bakersfield Adventures for the Mind (BAM)
      - Not a University project

3. New Student Housing
   - Project re-started
   - RFQ: responses due: September 16th
   - Projected start of construction: mid-2011
   - Projected opening: Fall 2013

Thank John Hultsman, Crystal Becks and their staffs

Budget Issues

1. Legislature ended w/o passing a budget
   • $19.1 B deficit is growing each day
   • CSU proposed funding
     $305 M restoration
     $  61 M for enrollment growth
     $106 M one-time stimulus fund
     $472 total

Enrollment Planning
   • Still open for Spring 2011 thru 9/27
     - accept applications, but defer admissions
   • For 2009-10 reductions happened
   • Will need to be prepared to increase planned enrollments
   • New targets will be issued
   • No penalty for going over

(Our position: Donahoe Act)
Fall 2010 enrollment will be another record

Questions and Answers

Those were the topics and issues on which I wanted to provide updates. I am now pleased to respond to any questions you might have.

Thank you for being here this morning, either in person or virtually. I look forward to our work together this year in advancing the University toward realization of our vision.

Thank you.