



### ***Provost Search***

From a pool of more than 50 applicants, the search committee for the position of Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs has invited four candidates to campus for in-person interviews on **April 8, 9, 10, and 13**. The Provost/VPAA is a key member of the President's Cabinet whose core duties include responsibility for the quality and effectiveness of the academic enterprise, which is central to our mission. Candidates will meet with various campus constituents throughout their visits to discuss their qualifications to fill this position. I hope you will mark your calendars to participate in the selection. A final schedule is forthcoming. For questions regarding the search, please contact search committee chair **Thomas Wallace**, Vice President for Student Affairs, at 654-2161.

### ***Kern County Economic Summit***

CSUB was well-represented among the 400 attendees at Kern Economic Development Corporation's 15<sup>th</sup> annual Kern County Economic Summit last week. **Mark Evans**, Professor and Chair of Economics Department, along with **Nyakundi Michieka** and **Richard Gearhart**, Assistant Professors of Economics, comprised the panel on *Local Economic Conditions and Trends*. I encourage you to view their presentation on quality of life and economic trends, the interconnections of major forces on these issues, and their economic forecast, at <http://bit.ly/1Cx2z9>, and the accompanying PowerPoint slides at <http://bit.ly/1I5spMx>. CSUB has been involved with the KEDC for

many years. **Mike Neal**, recently retired Vice President for Business and Administrative Services, and I have served on its board and our new CSUB representative on the board is **Mark Novak**, Dean of the Extended University Division.

### ***President's Associates***

The annual President's Associates Dinner was held in the Belvedere Room of the Padre Hotel on March 20<sup>th</sup>. Following are highlights of the dinner.

### ***President's Medal***

One of the features of the President's Associates dinner is the announcement of awardees of the CSU Bakersfield President's Medal. This year I had planned to award three president's medals; however, two of the three recipients were not able to attend. Thus, I will award those two on another occasion. I did not disclose the other two recipients because the presentation of the President's Medal is always a surprise to the recipients; however, I did decide to present one of them. I had planned to present it closer to my retirement, but decided the dinner would be a good time.

I was pleased to present the President's Medal to **First Lady Barbara J.B. Mitchell** for her exceptional contributions to the University, including her support for our students, faculty, and staff in her role as the First Lady as well as her unwavering support of the President. She has served on several community boards, is very



involved in the Bakersfield Sister City Project, and serves as an adjunct faculty member in the School of Social Sciences and Education. The award was a total surprise to the First Lady and there was great applause from attendees as it was presented.

#### March Madness – Student Research Competition

Each year as spring approaches, CSUB student researchers prepare for a different type of March Madness. The Student Research Competition is an academic tournament where undergraduate and graduate students and recent alumni from all disciplines vie for top positions in poster and oral presentations of their scholarly research and creative activities. Winners receive cash awards and the right to represent CSUB at the CSU system-wide research competition in May. The competition is presented by the Office of Grants, Research, and Sponsored Programs, and is made possible by the generosity of our community members who give annually as members of the President's Associates, the most prestigious and oldest giving society at CSUB. Student researchers, along with their faculty mentors, are presented each year at the President's Associates Dinner. Information on the Student Research Scholars program, including the 2014-15 student researchers and their faculty advisors, is available at <http://bit.ly/1NKcXpw> or by contacting **Vincent Oragwam**, Director of Grant Management Operations, at 654-2233.

#### Faculty Awards

Two members of our distinguished faculty have been selected to receive the 2014-15 faculty awards for their professional achievements and service. Faculty awards are announced in the Spring, acknowledged at the dinner, and are presented in the Fall at University Day.



#### **2014-15 Leadership and Service Award**

**Robert Carlisle**, Professor of English, is recognized for his leadership and service in online education, distance education, and graduate education. He began teaching online courses in 1977, has been acknowledged system-wide for exemplary online courses, and is certified as a Quality Matters examiner and instructor, teaching other faculty how to use the Quality Matters rubric in their design of online courses.



#### **2014-15 Faculty Scholarship and Creative Activity Award**

**Jianjun Wang**, Professor of Educational Research, has published more than 60 nationally-refereed journal articles and research reports during his 21 years at CSUB. He has received grant funding from numerous federal and state agencies including the U.S. Department of Education, National Science Foundation, and the Carnegie Foundation.

#### ***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](#).

#### ***Celebrate CSUB!***

We will celebrate our annual open house next month on Saturday, April 25, 2015 from 9am-1pm. Visit [www.csub.edu/celebrate](http://www.csub.edu/celebrate) for more information.

***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 17, 2015 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