



### ***Dr. Lynnette Zelezny Named 5<sup>th</sup> CSUB President***



The CSU Board of Trustees has appointed **Dr. Lynnette Zelezny** as the next president of CSUB. I am very pleased with the Board's selection. She will bring to the position more than 30 years of experience in the CSU and a very good knowledge of the Central Valley, having been at Fresno

State since 1988. As provost and vice president for academic affairs at Fresno State, she fully understands the needs of students in the CSU and the development of appropriate academic programs and student services to continue our thrust in Graduation Initiative 2025.

Dr. Zelezny was selected from a pool of more than 60 applicants. She earned bachelor's and master's degrees in psychology from Humboldt State University, a Ph.D. in applied social psychology from Claremont Graduate University and an MBA with distinction from the Craig School of Business at Fresno State. Her understanding of and commitment to the Central Valley, combined with her success in raising graduation rates, grant writing and philanthropic giving, make her an excellent choice to lead CSUB to the next level of achievement. The responsibility of any university president and campus leadership is not only to lead and manage the university during their tenure, but also to position the university for the future. I think the university is well-positioned for the new leadership Dr. Zelezny will provide. She will begin her term as president on July 1 after the

end of my term on June 30. You may read more about her in the CSU's [press release](#).

Our campus and community have been well served by search committee members selected from our faculty, staff, students, alumni, community, and Foundation Board. I thank all of the members of the selection committee for their outstanding work throughout the process:

- Timothy White, Ph.D.**, Chancellor
- Rebecca Eisen, J.D.**, Chair of the Board of Trustees
- John Nilon**, Search Committee Chair
- Jane Carney, J.D.**, Trustee
- Jorge Reyes Salinas**, Trustee
- Lateefah Simon**, Trustee
- Tomás Morales, Ph.D.**, CSU San Bernardino, CSU President Representative
- Kathleen Madden, Ph.D.**, Dean of Natural Sciences, Mathematics, and Engineering, Administration Representative
- Deborah Boschini, Ed.D.**, Chair, CSUB Academic Senate
- Melissa Danforth, Ph.D.**, Faculty Representative
- Isabel Sumaya, Ph.D.**, Faculty Representative
- Steve Walsh**, Staff Representative
- Mariela Gomez**, Student Representative
- Alex Balfour**, Alumni Representative
- Sheryl Barbich**, CSUB Foundation Board Representative
- Morgan Clayton**, Community Representative
- Jay Tamsi**, Community Representative
- Witt/Kieffer**, Search Firm



### *Gayle and Ben Batey to Receive Honorary Doctorates*

The Board of Trustees approved our recommendation to award an honorary degree to **Gayle Batey** and a posthumous honorary degree to the late **Ben Batey**. Each will be awarded a Doctor of Humane Letters at our spring commencement. Gayle and Ben came to Bakersfield and began their careers as high school teachers after graduating from Vanderbilt University. They ultimately left the field of education to become successful real estate developers and builders as founders and owners with their son, Bryan, of Batey Construction & Realty. The Bateys helped lay the foundation for growth in northwest Bakersfield to make it one of the city's most desirable residential areas, building nearly 1,000 homes in Bakersfield. They also built extensively in southwest Bakersfield neighborhoods, including Stockdale Estates, Haggin Oaks, The Oaks, Seven Oaks – the communities surrounding CSUB.

Twenty-five years ago, the *Bakersfield Californian* ran an article reporting that African American male students had the lowest graduation rates in the Kern High School District. At the time, Gayle was a teacher and counselor at West High School. She and Ben gave seed funding to create a program to address the problem. Others got on board and Project BEST (Black Excellence in Scholarship in Teaching) was created in 1991 with South, West, and Bakersfield High Schools as initial participants. Project BEST continues as a partnership among the Kern High School District, CSUB, the local business community, parents, and students, providing academic support and scholarships. Gayle continues to give and support Project BEST. She similarly supports initiatives to increase the number of female university students who study mathematics and science

and was among the donors who funded the purchase of equipment and technology for our Science III building. Other beneficiaries of the Bateys' service and philanthropy include the Kern County Museum Foundation's Batey Gardens; the CSUB-Tejon Ranch Conservancy partnership for environmental research; Kern Community Foundation; and USC Keck School of Medicine for Parkinson's disease research.

Gayle is the longest-serving member of the President's Community Advisory Council. I was pleased to award her the President's Medal in 2015. It will be my honor to award honorary degrees to Ben and Gayle, beloved and visionary members of our community.



### *Trustee Adam Day to Visit Campus*

CSU Board of Trustees Vice Chair **Adam Day** will visit campus on Friday, April 27, 2018. He will spend the day meeting with faculty, staff, students, alumni and community members. His itinerary for the day is being developed. Trustee Day's term on the BOT spans 2014-2023. A graduate of San Diego State University with a BA in political science, he serves as the chief administrative officer for the Sycuan Band of the Kumeyaay Nation. You may read Trustee Day's biography on the CSU [website](#).

### *April 4<sup>th</sup> Commemoration of the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of King Assassination*

**Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.** was the most significant role model in my life. When I became aware of his work as a pre-teen, I saw that he was concerned about civil rights, equality for African Americans and other underserved people, and human rights. He was a 'servant leader,' never seeking to be in the limelight. Rather, he responded as a man of conscience to the circumstances and situations he observed. Time

after time he stepped forward to remind this nation and the world, through non-violent actions and through the power of his speeches, that there were serious discrepancies between espoused values and observed behaviors.

In observance of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Dr. King's assassination, I am very pleased to have this opportunity to share some thoughts with our students and others on the important topic of 'Living the Legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'" I will speak on this topic **Wednesday, April 4, 6-8pm in the Doré Theater** along with **Dr. Thomas Wallace**, vice president for student affairs, who will present "I Have a Dream: 50 Years Later." The addresses will be followed by a candlelight vigil that will culminate a series of events throughout the day. Scheduled events during the day include:

- 9-11:30 a.m. – A faculty panel on the legacy of Dr. King and Civil Rights Movement moderated by **Dr. Alem Kebede** of the Department of Sociology in the Dezember Reading Room of the Walter W. Stiern Library. Parking for the event will be available in Lots J, K1, K2, and K3.
- 2-4 p.m. – A screening and discussion of *Citizen King* in the Dezember Reading Room of the Walter W. Stiern Library. Parking will be available in Lots J, K1, K2, and K3.
- 4:30-5:45 p.m. -- A public reading of Dr. King's "Letter from Birmingham Jail" at the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Sculpture at the west side of the Walter W. Stiern Library. **Dr. Jacquelyn Kegley** of the Department of Philosophy & Religious Studies will make opening comments.

The events are free. The public is invited to attend. Parking will be available in Lots A, B, and C. The day's events are sponsored by the CSUB Office of the President, Office of the Provost, Kegley Institute of Ethics, Black Faculty and Staff Association, Walter W. Stiern Library, the

Department of Sociology and the Public History Institute.

### ***CSUB to host CSU Young Men of Color Forum***

In October 2017, the CSU and the College Futures Foundation convened campus leaders, scholars and practitioners in a strategy and planning session focused on young men of color. The group sought to address persistent equity gaps for young men of color; foster a learning community to improve enrollment, persistence, engagement, and degree completion; and establish a CSU Young Men of Color Consortium. Seventeen campuses are participating actively in the consortium. The first event, a Young Men of Color Forum, will be held on **April 20, 2018** at CSUB from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. in the Student Housing East Multipurpose Room. Each of the 23 campuses have been asked to register a six-person team to attend the forum. **Dr. William Franklin**, vice president for student affairs at CSU Dominguez Hills, is the principal investigator for this initiative. **Dr. Thomas Wallace**, vice president for student affairs, is our campus contact and can be reached at 654-2161 or twallace4@csub.edu.

### ***John Ramirez Joins CSUB as AVP for Facilities Management***



Please join me in welcoming **John Ramirez** as AVP for Facilities Management. John succeeds **Pat Jacobs** who retired at the end of December. With more than 20 years of experience directing construction projects, John has a background in construction, facilities, grounds, transportation, environmental services, food services, and safety. His prior work with medical facilities includes Sutter Health/Alta Bates Summit Medical Center; Citrus Valley Health Partners; Providence Holy Cross Medical Center; Pacific Health Corporation; and Cedars Sinai Medical Center. John holds an MBA

from La Jolla University in San Diego and a BA in business administration from the Universidad Michoacán in Morelia, Mexico.

### ***SRC Director Mary O'Mahoney Receives NIRSA Award***



**Mary O'Mahoney**, director of the Student Recreation Center (SRC), received the National Intramural-Recreational Sports Association (NIRSA) Region VI Award of Merit at the national conference in Denver. The award recognizes a professional NIRSA member who demonstrates exceptional performance or dedication to NIRSA and the field of collegiate recreation regionally. Mary's pioneering leadership contributed significantly to the establishment, development, and operation of NIRSA. She has been dedicated to NIRSA Intramurals. SRC student staff **Asna Rupani** and **Jorge Murillo** received the J. Michael Dunn Scholarship and were recognized at the conference.

### ***CSUB Sustainability Highlighted at CSU Board of Trustees***

At the March CSU Board of Trustees meeting, I was invited to share CSUB's initiatives and actions to institutionalize sustainable practices as part of the CSU report on systemwide progress toward achieving environmental sustainability goals. We embedded the core value as an objective in our strategic plan and change agents led projects to create visible change on campus in construction, transportation, energy and water efficiency, and students' basic needs. Faculty have integrated sustainability into the curriculum through thematic GE pathways. In addition to my report, **Kassandra Hernandez** and **Summer Sullivan**, our Americorps STEM VISTA volunteers, presented at the poster session following the CSU Board of Trustees meeting and engaged several presidents and trustees.

### ***Save the Dates!***

**2018 Bakersfield Jazz Festival at CSUB**  
April 27-28, 2018

**Celebrate CSUB! 2018**  
April 28, 2018

**President's Retirement - Campus Celebration**  
May 4, 2018  
Icardo Center

**Athletics Spring BBQ**  
May 10, 2018

**2018 Commencement**  
May 17-18, 2018

### ***What's Going On?***

Find academic, alumni, arts & culture, campus life, community, or athletics events on [Events Calendar](#). Access the calendar from our home page by clicking the "Calendar of Events" link at the bottom of the page. [Plan an event](#) using the 25Live online scheduling program.

### ***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 is Friday, April 20, 2018 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