



### *Thank You and Farewell*



As I have said on many occasions, it has been my privilege and honor to serve with you as President of CSUB over the past 14 years as we have addressed the needs of our students and our community. We have been true to our vision, which is:

“CSU Bakersfield will be the leading campus in the CSU system in terms of faculty and academic excellence and diversity, quality of the student experience, and community engagement. Realization of our vision will be advanced by recruitment, development and promotion of excellent and diverse staff within an organizational culture committed to excellence in all areas.”

As I also have said on many occasions, it takes each of us doing well in our respective responsibilities that then creates the overall success of the University. I thank you for your commitment and hard work.

As I head into retirement, I think about how our shared core values have contributed to our sense of community and our focus on meeting the needs of our students and community:

“In order to honor our purpose and commitment to achieving our vision of excellence in all areas, we are guided by a set of core values that shape our work with students, with each other, and

with the region we serve. These core values include the following commitments:

- Developing the intellectual and personal potential of every student.
- Supporting the intellectual and professional development of all faculty and staff.
- Nurturing a civil and collegial campus environment that values the diversity of persons and ideas.
- Engaging one another with respect, trustworthiness, ethical behavior, and self-reflection.
- Promoting active and informed engagement of faculty, staff, students, and community stakeholders in shared governance.
- Being accountable to the public, alumni, students, and one another for achieving the mission, vision, and goals of the university.”

I am certain you will provide the same support to our incoming president, Dr. Lynnette Zelezny, as you have provided to me.

First Lady Barbara Mitchell and I are grateful for your support, your engagement, and your friendship. We wish each of you the very best in the future.

### *Administrative Transitions*



**Dr. Evelyn Young Spath** is transitioning from her role as Chief of Staff to the President after thirteen years of dedicated service to the University. She has chosen to end her service with the end of my administration. Dr. Young Spath has been a valued member of the University's leadership team. In addition to her responsibilities for the executive management of the Office of the President, she has championed environmental sustainability, engaging faculty, staff and students in building a culture of sustainability on campus. A champion of student development and leadership, she created a pathway for paid student internships through which more than 40 students have engaged in hands-on experiential learning in energy, recycling, alternate transportation, and food security, supervised by **Jennifer Sanchez**, Sustainability Coordinator and former Associated Students, Inc. Executive Vice President.

She has written successful grants totaling more than \$1.2 million. Most recently, she collaborated with BCSD on a \$50,000 two-year Farm to School planning grant awarded from the USDA to enable the school district to purchase more locally grown fresh produce.

Dr. Young Spath holds a B.A. in Spanish from UC Irvine, an M.P.A. from CSUB and an Ed.D. from Fresno State. Her doctoral research focused on the CSU Entry-Level Mathematics placement test, remediation, and college-readiness and directly contributed to the discontinuance of the placement test. She is an advocate for domestic violence awareness. As she moves on from CSUB, she continues to contribute to our community, joining the boards of directors of **Dignity Health** and **Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA)**.



**Dr. Vandana Kohli**, Associate Dean of Graduate and Undergraduate Studies and Professor of Sociology, will take on the role of Dean of Arts and Sciences at CSU Channel Islands. Dr. Kohli's distinguished 25-year career at CSUB includes service as Department Chair, Chair of the Faculty and Academic Senate, Director of the Graduate Student Center, Graduate Program Coordinator, and Associate Dean. She earned a BA in Interdisciplinary Studies and an M.A. in Economics from Panjab University in India, and a Ph.D. in Demography from Michigan State University in 1990.

Dr. Kohli served with the team that revamped the General Education program. She is co-principal investigator on a \$2.6 million grant to improve undergraduate learning outcomes and oversaw a \$2.2 million Title Vb grant that funded the development of our one-stop Graduate Student Center. She helped develop our 4+1 programs which allows students to complete both an undergraduate and graduate degree in five years. She also collaborated with Engineering Sciences faculty to develop a post-baccalaureate certificate in Petroleum Engineering. For her distinguished service to CSUB, Dr. Kohli was awarded the Faculty Leadership and Service Award and the Award for Excellence in Sponsored Programs.

### *Director of Track and Field Emeritus*



Yesterday, I conferred on **Charles "Charlie" Craig**, CSUB's founding track and field head coach, the title Director of Track and Field Emeritus. Charlie was recruited from his assistant coaching position at UC Berkeley in 1971 to build a track and field program at CSUB from the

ground up. He shared that he thought he had made a mistake back then as he drove along Stockdale Highway to the new “California State College.” He recalls seeing sheep grazing in the open fields when he arrived on campus and wondering what he had done. Fortunately, he took the long view and saw the campus as it could be in 20 years. He went on to coach our track and field team to 18 national NCAA Division II championships over a career that spanned more than 30 years.

In addition to coaching at CSUB, Charlie served as assistant coach for the 1991 World Championships in Athletics and was assistant coach at the 1996 Olympic Games in Atlanta. He was inducted into the Fresno County Athletic Hall of Fame in 1991, was named NCAA Division II Coach of the Year in 2002 and was inducted into the U.S. Track & Field and Cross-Country Coaches Association Hall of Fame in 2008.

As a student-athlete at Fresno State, Charlie was a stand-out. He broke the American collegiate record in the triple jump on a team that won the university’s first NCAA Division I Outdoor Track and Field Championship in 1964. He was a gold medalist triple jumper at the 1967 Pan American Games in Winnipeg and won the USA Indoor Track and Field Championships with a meet record of 54 feet, 1½ inches. He holds a master’s degree from Fresno State.

I have appreciated greatly Charlie’s continued engagement with CSUB even after his retirement. He has engaged with current and former student athletes, the Ernest Williams Scholarship Fund, and a range of other campus and community initiatives. We are grateful for the impact Charlie Craig has made on our athletics program, our students, and our university.

### *Enterprise College*

Seventy-five students attended Enterprise College, our three-week intensive summer economics program which has run for 30 years. Rising high school seniors receive credit for their senior year economics course and 5 units of credit for college-level Economics 100. Students attend class four hours per day, four days per week in face-to-face classroom and on-line learning environments as well as lab time. Course content includes Excel for economics. Bakersfield **Mayor Karen Goh** was among the guest speakers. The program was taught by **Dr. Aaron Hegde**, Department Chair of Economics, Director, Environmental Resource Management, and Professor of Economics; **Dr. Richard Gearhart**, Assistant Professor of Economics; and **Dr. John Deal**, Lecturer in Economics and Director of the Agricultural Business program.



Aaron Hegde



Richard Gearhart



John Deal

### *CSUB is a Shining Star*



CSUB has earned a Silver rating from the Sustainability Tracking, Assessment, and Ratings System (STARS), a program of the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE). STARS is a comprehensive sustainability rating system for colleges and universities that addresses environmental, social and economic sustainability in four main categories: academics, engagement, operations, and planning & administration.

A team of ten paid Energize Colleges student interns collected ten years of data across several departments over an eight-month period. The data included records on energy, water, waste, transportation, academics, diversity, innovation, student engagement, dining, and purchasing, among other areas.

Our STARS [report](#) is a baseline assessment that provides a snapshot of our sustainability performance and is an important initial step in developing a long-term sustainability strategy. I thank **Dr. Evelyn Young Spath**, Chief of Staff to the President; **Dr. Aaron Hegde**, Director, Environmental Resource Management; **Paula Bray**, Director of Facilities Operations; **Claudia Catota, J.D.**, Assistant to the President for Equity, Inclusion & Compliance, for providing data and submitting sections of the report; and **Jennifer Sanchez**, Sustainability Coordinator, for overseeing the project and managing the student interns.

#### ***Retirement and Scholarship Gala Thank-You***

We first want to thank everyone who attended the Retirement & Scholarship Gala. A portion of the ticket price for the gala was a donation to the **Dr. Horace Mitchell and Mrs. Barbara B.J. Mitchell Study Abroad Scholarship Endowment**. In collaboration with our K-12 and community partners, CSUB has been very successful in increasing the college-going rate among Kern County students. We want to support the University's efforts to increase CSUB students' opportunities to further expand their educational opportunities through study abroad where they can learn first-hand about other cultures, peoples, countries and perspectives. In support of that effort, we have made a personal commitment of \$50,000 to endow scholarships that will support CSUB students who pursue study abroad. We thank you for joining us in this initiative.

We thank our title sponsor, **Dignity Health**. We also thank our sponsors **Kern Schools Federal Credit Union; Chevron; Gregory D. Bynum & Associates, Inc.**; the **CSU Bakersfield Alumni Association; CSU Los Angeles Office of the President; Joan and Ray Dezember; Geoff and Lisa King; Louis and Sheryl Barbich**; and **PG&E** for their donations. Their support has enhanced the resources being made available for the study abroad scholarship endowment.

We thank the CSUB Foundation Board for their support of the University during my tenure, their oversight of the endowment resources, and their sponsorship of this event.

We thank the President's Community Advisory Council for their input and feedback regarding the University's role in addressing various community issues. We thank the faculty and staff of the University because all that we have achieved over the last 14 years is a result of the culture of collaboration we have developed on campus. The contribution of our faculty and staff has been considerable.

We also thank our alumni, community members, educational and corporate partners who have assisted us in providing support to our students and in serving the community.

You have our deepest and most heartfelt thanks for the transformational work we have done together to position CSU Bakersfield for the future.

Take Care,



Horace Mitchell  
President