



## Welcome to the Fall Semester

August 21, 2023

Dear Colleagues,

Welcome to the fall semester and a new academic year!

I hope that all of you had a wonderful and restful summer. It was so nice seeing so many familiar faces at Convocation getting caught up and planning for the year ahead. The energy was invigorating.



As we embark on a new academic year, we can look back with great pride on our 2022-2023 accomplishments, including:

- A rebound in enrollment, up 6% from the prior academic year;
- Statewide recognition of our standout students, employees and programs;
- Strong transfer rates from both our colleges to SDSU and other four-year institutions;
- Strong student success outcomes, even with declining enrollment;

- Successful integration of EEO into our hiring practices; and
- Implementation of at least the first phase of salary equity for employee groups.

Each of you contributed to these many accomplishments in important ways—whether behind the scenes, or on the front line, in the classroom, or in critical support programs—and we could not be successful without the dedication and commitment of ALL of our amazing employees!

As we continue to move forward together, several significant efforts are planned for the new academic year, including:

- Continuing our strong focus on enrollment recovery;
- Rethinking our districtwide participatory governance structure with an eye to operating more inclusively, more strategically, and more efficiently;
- Implementation of several new online systems to improve services for students and streamline processes, including a new financial aid system, a new degree audit system, a curriculum management system, significant improvements to our online application for admissions, and improvements to Workday to improve processing—to name a few.

Meanwhile, new academic programs like Drone Technology will continue to reinforce our commitment to 21<sup>st</sup> Century workforce development throughout East County and the greater San Diego region, and we will be exploring the creation of new noncredit, short-term certificate training programs that lead to livable wage jobs to meet the job training needs of our community.

This year we will also continue to engage communities across East County to better understand their needs and how to serve them, with a strong emphasis on our immigrant communities. The District also plans to conduct another round of polling this fall, to gauge voter support for a Fall 2024 facilities construction bond.

Most importantly, we will continue to boldly show our commitment to diversity and support our rich ethnic communities, our undocumented students, and our LGBTQIA+ students, staff, and their families.

Welcome back to another exciting academic year for 2023-2024.

I hope to see you on campus!

With gratitude,

***Lynn***

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