



Monday, Feb. 18, 2019

Dear Campus Community

Over the last 20 years, the Department of Athletics has seen remarkable growth from very humble beginnings. When I arrived in 2004, the department consisted of just six teams, 70 student-athletes and five staff members. Today, the department includes 13 teams with more than 300 student-athletes and a staff of more than 40. Over the years, we've added new playing fields and structures. In 2017, we were granted full NCAA Division II status, a major accomplishment that speaks to our commitment to providing our student-athletes with the opportunity to participate in top-notch competition while succeeding academically and personally. Our balanced approach to collegiate athletics, in harmony with our academic mission, produces graduates who will serve our region and world with skill, integrity and leadership.

As we continue to enhance our campus' student life experience to better meet the needs of our diverse student body and promote students' engagement with the campus, I am pleased to inform you that effective immediately, the CSUSM Department of Athletics will become part of the Division of Student Affairs. Not only will this move help strengthen existing partnerships and enhance opportunities for additional collaborations that will enrich student life, but it will elevate the resources available for all students.

While presidents must play a role in athletics – both an NCAA requirement and a practical necessity given interinstitutional relationships – I will rely on Vice President of Student Affairs Lorena Checa administrative leadership to promote an enhanced student development experience for our athletes and further integrate them into our campus life model. I'd like to also thank Athletic Director Jennifer Milo for her ongoing leadership in the Department of Athletics.

Please join me in cheering this next phase in our campus' growing student life experience and the many benefits that this new organizational alignment will offer.

Sincerely,

Karen S. Haynes, Ph.D.
President