

**Thursday, June 29, 2017**

It is with bittersweet emotions that I announce the upcoming departure of Chief of Staff and Associate Vice President for Institutional Planning and Analysis Dr. Matthew (Matt) Ceppi. Matt has accepted a role as principal with CliftonLarsonAllen, LLP, a professional services network and the ninth largest accountancy firm in the United States.

Matt first joined Cal State San Marcos in 2006 as the director of Institutional Planning and Analysis. He currently serves as my chief of staff, a role he's held since 2007, and as the associate vice president for Institutional Planning and Analysis. Matt has served the California State University system for 19 years, spanning two campuses and the Office of the Chancellor.

Over the course of his career, Matt has demonstrated a deep commitment to the mission of Cal State San Marcos and public higher education in general. He has been entrepreneurial, courageous, a mentor and change maker—his impact has been felt at CSUSM and across the CSU system. As my chief of staff, and with his dual role in Institutional Planning and Analysis, he has worked closely with the Executive Council and me to develop strategies, foster partnerships and engage our constituencies in the work of growing this modern, public-comprehensive, regional university. For his work in the system and here at CSUSM, Matt was previously honored with the CSU Distinguished Service in Quality Improvement award.

Matt established the Office of Institutional Planning and Analysis as a reliable partner for the University's efforts in fostering and improving student success and educational equity. He has been a consistent leader during difficult times in the system or as national events and movements have impacted the campus. Furthermore, he has steered negotiation and planning processes for public-private partnerships that have benefitted this growing campus, including the development of CSUSM at Temecula.

Over his 11 years at CSUSM, Matt has been a trusted advisor to me and I am deeply appreciative of his steady guidance and exemplary leadership. He has been an honest broker of information and ideas, developing innovative and creative solutions that have been in the best interest of student success and the University.

As many of you know, the role of chief of staff is a very unique one at a university. His or her portfolio depends on the needs of the campus and the president, as well as the distinct skill sets the person brings to the role. To that end, I will take some time to assess campus and Office of the President needs before announcing next steps for this role.

A reception to honor Matt's contributions to CSUSM will be held on Tuesday, July 25 from 3 to 5 p.m. A location will be announced shortly. I hope you will join me in thanking Matt for his service to our campus and in wishing him the very best in his future endeavors.

Sincerely,  
Karen S. Haynes, Ph.D.  
President