

**From:** Provost & Vice President for Academic Affairs <Provost@csusb.edu>  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 25, 2023 11:52 AM  
**To:** Colleagues <colleagues@groups.csusb.edu>  
**Subject:** Office of Community Engagement Leadership

Dear Colleagues,

With bittersweet emotions, I write to share that Diane Podolske will be leaving CSUSB after a 20-year career as our director of the Office of Community Engagement to rejoin her extended family in Minnesota. Her last day on campus will be June 22, 2023.

Dr. Podolske has been an outstanding leader and an integral part of the Coyote family since 2002. During her tenure, she led the development of the annual all-campus Coyote Cares Day, the Obershaw DEN campus food pantry, the CoyoteCareers and PASS GO STEM programs, the OCE Faculty Grant program, National Service Day volunteer events, Faculty Writing Accountability Groups, several community engagement award programs and more.

She also oversaw and increased grant opportunities to support numerous familiar faculty/community-led programs, ranging from the VITA income tax program to the Anthropology Museum. In all, the office has awarded more than \$1.5 million in faculty grants since 2000.

Dr. Podolske and OCE staff have also frequently partnered with Student Affairs offices to promote student volunteerism, voter registration and education, internship programs, and alternative break service trips. The original Community-University Partnerships Institute, governed by the Faculty Senate and focused only on faculty-related work, transitioned to the Office of Community Engagement under the Provost's office with a dual focus on academic and co-curricular engagement.

As a result of her steadfast efforts and outstanding leadership, CSUSB has been recognized nationally with the Carnegie Classification for Community Engagement, the President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll with distinction, the Washington Center Higher Education Civic Engagement Award, a NASPA LEAD Institution, and the Gold and Silver Seals for the All In Campus Democracy Challenge. CSUSB has also been named the best California college for civic engagement in Intelligent.com's list of "The Best Colleges in California," and Washington Monthly has ranked CSUSB among one of America's Best Colleges for Student Voting since this list was created in 2018.

Diane will be joining the administration of the Dakota County Library System as their manager of Adult Services, where she will work with nine branch libraries to develop community partnerships, refresh their volunteer programs, diversify program offerings, develop higher education institution linkages and conduct program evaluations. While she will be greatly missed, we wish her well on her journey back home and thank her for her extraordinary efforts to engage with our campus and communities.

Sincerely,  
Rafik

**WE DEFINE THE** *Future*

A. Rafik Mohamed, Ph.D.  
Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs  
California State University, San Bernardino