



The California State University

OFFICE OF THE CHANCELLOR

Dear Chancellor's Office Colleagues,

I write to offer warm greetings to each of you. As we begin a new year, I am hopeful that it will lead to happier and safer days ahead for all. It is in this spirit that I thank you for your past endurance and resilience. I look forward to working with each of you as we continue to advance the CSU's mission on behalf of our students and this great state. Our work together is more consequential than ever before.

I consider it my highest professional honor – and responsibility – to serve as your chancellor, and I am thrilled to transition into this role with the support of such a talented and dedicated team. Chancellor Emeritus White often referred to you as the CSU's “secret sauce,” and although I have been in my new position for only a short time, I can already see what he meant and look forward to the day when I can meet you all in person.

In that regard, you will remember that, in his November 10 email, Dr. White indicated that the start of the phased repopulation of the Chancellor's Office would be delayed until no earlier than March 3, 2021. However, with Southern California as the pandemic's current epicenter and Los Angeles and Orange counties regularly reporting grim record numbers of infections, hospitalizations and deaths, that potential start date is infeasible and unsafe. In fact, as we continue to closely monitor [public health data](#), projections and guidelines and, after meeting with the CO's Phased Repopulation Task Force, I have decided that the phased repopulation of the Chancellor's Office will now begin no earlier than July 1, 2021.

I understand that, for some of you, working remotely presents personal and/or professional challenges. And, while I am saddened by the circumstances which led to this decision, safeguarding your health and well-being is my highest priority. It is my hope that announcing this timeline now will provide ample time and clarity to plan appropriately and make necessary arrangements for child/elder care or other personal obligations.

In the meantime, we will be open for business, continuing to serve our students and advance our mission by working remotely with limited on-site operations. I want to share that I am part of those “limited on-site operations.” I believe that access to the office's resources will facilitate my transition as chancellor and is in the best interest of the university and our students.

Thank you for your support, as well as your skilled and dedicated work. I look forward – with great excitement – to all that we will accomplish together in 2021 and beyond.

Please take care, be safe and stay healthy.

Warm regards,

Chancellor
Joseph I. Castro