



ASSOCIATED STUDENTS, INC. ANNUAL REPORT 2025-2026

MISSION AND GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Mission Statment

The mission of Associated Students, Incorporated (ASI) at California State University, Bakersfield is to provide an official voice through which students' opinions and issues may be expressed regarding university and statewide affairs. ASI seeks to assist in the protection of the rights and interests of individual students and the student body as a whole. ASI provides resources and programs that encourage leadership development and broaden social, education, political, and cultural awareness for the betterment of the students.

Guiding Principles

California State University, Bakersfield is actively committed to academic and personal exploration through open and respectful discourse.

As Runners We...

- Celebrate academic excellence
- Value integrity & self-reflection
- Embrace individual differences
- Collaborate to build community
- Engage in sustainable practices
- Strive to be local and global citizens
- Welcome new ideas
- Pursue life-long learning

In order to honor our shared purpose, we dedicate ourselves to these guiding principles.

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MESSAGE FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



The 2025-26 academic year was a monumental year for Associated Students, Inc. (ASI) at California State University, Bakersfield (CSUB). As I wrap up my third year, I am honored and grateful to be serving incredible and committed student leaders that have such a passion for student equity and justice. ASI leaders give me the honor of acknowledging me for their guidance and support, but it is through them that I have been able to grow as a leader – I am inspired by them and the service they provide to CSUB.

The annual report will cover much of the important and incredible highlights from the year, and I am proud to share that the organization continues to grow in dedication and service to students. Some pride points of the year would be hiring Nilda Mason and Erik Ramirez. Nilda Mason was hired as the dedicated staff member to serving and supporting our students with dependents, and Erik Ramirez was hired to support ASI leaders as well as students within the Sensational Sophomores Program. Within their short time with ASI, they have demonstrated their commitment to students and is excited to work with the populations they serve.

Another pride point that I share is the successful passing of the ASI referendum. This was a project started and completed by ASI President Anthonio Reyes and his Board. Under his leadership, the theme of the referendum was “Runnervation: Student Led Investment” where students would directly see the immediate benefits of their student government and the services and support that we provide. After a year marked with planning, marketing, campaigning, and presentations – mixed with many emotions – ASI was able to pass this initiative with an overwhelming majority of voters. This initiative showcases the pride and spirit of what is possible with our students, and I have no doubt that our students will continue to be trailblazers within their future professions.

With gratitude,

Mike Kwon
Executive Director



NEW PERSONNEL



NILDA MASON

Nilda Mason is a first-generation Latina higher education professional with a Master’s Degree in Higher Education Administration, dedicated to supporting student success and educational equity. As the Student-Parent Engagement Assistant, she works to empower student-parents by connecting them with campus resources, financial wellness education, and providing family-centered programs that foster belonging and academic success.

With experience in admissions, financial aid, and student support services, Nilda is passionate about helping students—particularly those from historically underserved communities—navigate higher education, overcome barriers, and achieve their educational and career goals. Her professional background and commitment to student advocacy enable her to create meaningful opportunities that support persistence, degree completion, and lifelong success.

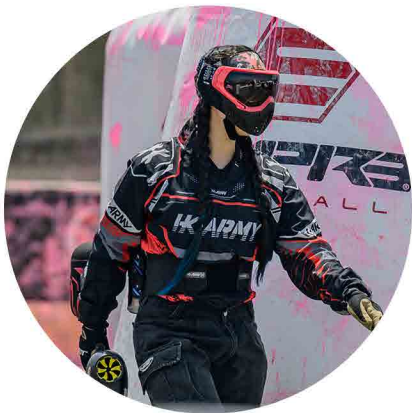


ALEXIA NANKIL

Alexia Nankil is currently a student at CSUB, studying Studio Art and Communications. As the Student Assistant and Graphic Design Specialist for ASI, she looks to combine her creativity and communication skills to support student engagement through graphic design, photography, social media, and videography.

Throughout her time at CSUB, Alexia has gained valuable experience creating graphics, managing digital content, and contributing to projects that connect and inform the campus community. She takes pride in representing the student voice through her work and has supported projects such as the ASI referendum, ASI t-shirts, and the production of the Annual Report.

Actively involved in campus clubs and organizations, Alexia values the strong sense of community at CSUB and is passionate about creating work that reflects and represents the diverse experiences of students. She aspires to pursue a career in a creative field where she can use design and storytelling to make a meaningful impact.



ERIK RAMIREZ

ASI is proud to welcome Erik Ramirez as our new Leadership & Programs Coordinator. Since joining the team in January 2026, Erik has quickly made a positive impact through his dedication, energy, and genuine commitment to student development.

A proud double alumnus of CSUB, Erik returns to his alma mater with a diverse background that includes service in the U.S. Army and professional experience supporting students in both high school and community college settings throughout the Sacramento region. His passion for helping students discover their potential and achieve their goals has been a constant throughout his career.

As the co-advisor for the Sensational Sophomores Program, Erik has already fostered meaningful relationships with students, staff, and campus partners while creating opportunities for leadership, service, and personal growth. His student-centered approach and enthusiasm for building community make him a valuable addition to the ASI team.

We are excited to welcome Erik back to CSUB and look forward to the positive impact he will continue to make in the lives of our students.



ASI OFFICE OF STUDENT PARENT ENGAGEMENT



INTRODUCTION

The Office of Student-Parent Engagement supports the success, retention, and well-being of student-parents by connecting them with campus and community resources, providing resource navigation, and fostering engagement, belonging, and family-friendly opportunities. The office offers family-friendly activities, events, and programs that help student-parents build community while balancing their academic and family responsibilities. Through outreach, referrals, cross-campus collaboration, and support for the implementation of AB 2881 and AB 2458, the office helps create a more inclusive and supportive campus environment where student-parents and their families can thrive. Through advocacy, collaboration, and intentional programming, the office works to ensure student-parents have equitable access to the support, resources, and sense of community needed to persist, graduate, and achieve their educational goals.

OUR MISSION

The Office of Student-Parent Engagement is dedicated to supporting students who are balancing college and parenthood. We provide resources, advocacy, and a welcoming community to help student-parents succeed academically, professionally, and personally. Whether you're looking for campus resources, connections with other student-parents, or guidance along your journey, we're here for you.



"I wanted to take a moment to sincerely thank [Nilda] for all the effort[s] [she] put into creating and hosting events that intentionally support students who are also parents. Opportunities like these truly make a difference, and they create a welcoming and inclusive space for families within the campus community. Thank you again for all that you do to support students and their families."
-Alexis Nicole Molina



ENGAGEMENT EVENTS

During the semester, the Office of Student Engagement organized 13 student engagement events and activities with a total recorded attendance of 483 participants. In addition, 44 one-on-one student support meetings were conducted to assist students with academic, financial, and personal concerns.

EVENTS OVERVIEW

The semester included workshops, tabling events, family engagement activities, social gatherings, and campus outreach initiatives. The average attendance per event was 37 participants.

Event	Attendance
Orientation	58
Vision Board Party (AV)	15
Spring Club Fair	21
Vision Board Party	11
Budgeting for Student Parents	10
Family Movie Night	53
Family Bingo Night	23
Future Runner Day	51
Family Baseball Night	121
BC to CSUB Presentation	4
Family Lego Night	80
Grad Cap Decor Event	24
Grad Cap Decor Event (AV)	12



STUDENT-PARENT SPOTLIGHT: JESSICA MILL

The Office of Student-Parent Engagement plays a critical role in helping parenting students overcome barriers and persist toward their educational goals. Through resource navigation, family-friendly programming, outreach, and individualized support, the office helps student-parents remain connected to campus while balancing the demands of family, work, and academics.

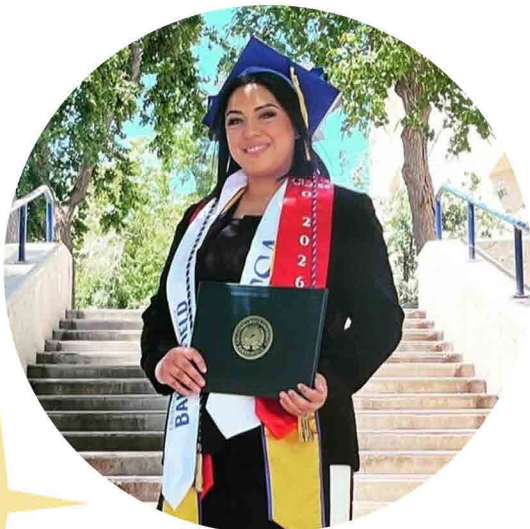
One example of this impact is Jessica Mil, a recent CSUB graduate and mother of three. While pursuing her degree, Jessica balanced a full course load, a 30-hour workweek, and the responsibilities of raising her children. Through engagement with the Office of Student-Parent Engagement, Jessica found a supportive community and access to resources designed specifically for her.

Jessica shared that the office helped her feel seen, included, and valued as a CSUB student. This sense of belonging, combined with access to campus support and family-centered programming contributed to her ability to remain engaged and focused on her educational goals.

Jessica’s successful graduation reflects the importance of intentional support for student-parents and demonstrates how the Office of Student-Parent Engagement helps create pathways to persistence, degree completion, and long-term success for parenting students and their families.

“Nilda helped me feel seen, supported, and connected throughout my time at CSUB. As a student balancing school, work, and raising my children, knowing there was a place that understood my experience made a meaningful difference in my ability to stay focused on my goals and complete my degree.”

-Jessica Mill



GOALS FOR 2026-2027 YEAR

Goal 1: Expand Student-Parent Engagement and Increase Participation

Expanding student-parent engagement fosters student success which leads to a greater sense of belonging and increased participation in campus programs. Expanded engagement also supports student persistence and enhances the overall student experience.

As such, the Office shall:

- Plan, coordinate, and host a minimum of 15 student-parent engagement events each semester, including family engagement activities, educational workshops, resource fairs, and community-building opportunities.
- Increase student-parent participation from the Spring 2026 baseline of 483 participants to at least 550 participants per semester through targeted outreach, collaboration with campus and community partners, and promotion across multiple communication channels.
- Provide flexible virtual and in-person one-on-one appointments throughout the academic year to improve student-parent access to individualized support and program services, documenting appointments and service outcomes.

Goal 2: Strengthen Student Support Services, Resource Navigation, and Campus Partnerships

Strengthening student support services, resource navigation, and campus partnerships is important because it ensures student-parents can easily access the resources they need to succeed academically and personally. Strong collaboration across campus also improves service, reduces barriers, and creates a more connected support network that promotes student engagement and retention.

The Office shall:

- Provide comprehensive resource navigation and referrals during workshops, outreach events, and one-on-one appointments, documenting 100% of resource navigation interactions and referrals.
- Develop and maintain partnerships with at least five (5) campus departments or community organizations by June 2027.
- Plan and co-host at least six (6) collaborative resource events during the academic year with campus and community partners.
- Obtain CalFresh Certified Enrollment Counselor certification by June 30, 2027.
- Establish a Student-Parent Advisory Board by July 2027 and facilitate at least two meetings during the academic year.
- Deliver at least two (2) Student-Parent Ally Training sessions during the academic year, training a minimum of 50 faculty and staff.



SENSATIONAL SOPHOMORES PROGRAM

Goal 3: Increase Financial Literacy Programming for Student-Parents

Financial literacy for student-parents is important and equips them with the knowledge and skills to make informed financial decisions, reduce financial stress, and better balance their educational and family responsibilities.

The Office shall:

- Plan, coordinate, and deliver at least five (5) financial literacy workshops during the academic year (two in Fall 2026, two in Spring 2027, and one in Summer 2027), offering both virtual and in-person participation options.
- Deliver at least three (3) collaborative financial education workshops or presentations with campus and community partners during the academic year.
- Integrate financial literacy education, budgeting strategies, and financial resource referrals into applicable one-on-one advising appointments, documenting financial education discussions.
- Develop, review, or update financial literacy resource materials each semester covering financial aid, budgeting, credit, scholarships, basic needs, and community resources.
- Use participant feedback from each financial literacy workshop to refine future programming and improve participant outcomes.

Goal 4: Enhance Program Assessment, Data Collection, and Continuous Improvement

Enhancing program assessment and data collection ensures that programs and services remain effective and responsive to student needs. Using data to inform decision-making supports accountability and helps maximize the impact of available resources.

The Office shall:

- Implement and maintain a standardized data collection system documenting 100% of student-parent event attendance, appointments, referrals, and service interactions.
- Collect participant feedback following 100% of major workshops, family engagement events, and student-parent programs.
- Analyze student-parent service trends at the end of each semester to identify emerging needs and inform service delivery.
- Conduct semester assessment reviews using participation, referral, appointment, and survey data to identify program strengths and service gaps.
- Prepare and distribute two (2) semester assessment reports and one (1) comprehensive annual assessment report summarizing participation, outcomes, trends, and recommendations.
- Implement at least three (3) data-informed program improvements during the academic year and document resulting actions and impacts.

LETTER FROM NEW CO-ADVISOR



It has been a pleasure joining the Sensational Sophomores Program and getting to know the students, advisors, and experiences that make this program so meaningful. Throughout this academic year, I have had the opportunity to learn more about the goals, ambitions, and accomplishments of each cohort and witness the ways students continue to grow as leaders both on campus and within the Bakersfield community.

What continues to stand out most about the Program is the strong sense of community that students have created with one another. Beyond leadership development and volunteer service, students have built meaningful relationships, developed confidence in themselves, and found a space where they are encouraged to grow personally, academically, and professionally.

This year, students demonstrated an incredible commitment to service, leadership, and community engagement. Whether through volunteer initiatives, mentorship opportunities, Alternative Spring Break experiences, or legacy projects within Bakersfield, each cohort contributed to the continued success and impact of the program in unique ways.

As the new co-advisor of the program, I am incredibly grateful for the opportunity to work alongside students who are passionate about serving others and creating positive change within their communities. I look forward to seeing how the program continues to grow and how future cohorts continue building upon the strong foundation that has already been established.

Lastly, I would like to thank Mike Kwon and Veronica Catalan for their continued support, guidance, and leadership throughout the beginning of my tenure with the program. Most importantly, I would like to thank our Sensational Sophomores for their dedication, leadership, and commitment to making a positive impact both on campus and throughout the Bakersfield community.

It is an honor to share the programs highlights and celebrate all that the Sensational Sophomores Program has accomplished throughout the 2025–2026 academic year.


Erik Ramirez
Leadership & Programs Coordinator



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2025–2026 YEAR IN REVIEW

If the 2025–2026 academic year was composed as a book it would be titled “Development & Service to Others”. Throughout the year, students participated in leadership opportunities, volunteer initiatives, mentorship experiences, and community partnerships that strengthened both their personal development and connection to the CSUB and Bakersfield communities.

One of the program’s major accomplishments—specifically the Class of 2026—included the adoption of Kroll Park through the City of Bakersfield’s Adopt-A-Park program, further expanding the program’s long-term commitment to community service and engagement.

Students also participated in impactful Alternative Spring Break experiences and volunteer partnerships throughout Kern County and beyond. The Class of 2028 traveled to Santa Catalina Island to support environmental restoration efforts through the removal of invasive plant species and trail maintenance projects. The Class of 2027 volunteered at the Open Door Network, assisting individuals experiencing homelessness through service efforts focused on sanitation, kitchen support, and warehouse operations. Students also volunteered with Community Action Partnership of Kern (CAPK), helping prepare food boxes for families experiencing food insecurity throughout Kern County.

In addition to service and leadership accomplishments, the program continued to promote student success and retention, with nearly half of the junior cohort graduating a year early.



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STUDENT HIGHLIGHTS

My journey in the Sensational Sophomores Program began in the Fall of 2023, and throughout the past couple of years, the program has transformed me in more ways than one. The program was designed to foster leadership, service, and development in students, and for me it became a defining part of my college experience. I had the privilege of serving as the President for the Class of 2026, a leadership position that not only challenged me to grow, but also helped shape the individual I am today. Through this role, I learned the importance of responsibility, communication, collaboration, and overall leading with purpose. This role created an environment where growth, learning, and service were at the center of everything we did.

As a Sensational Sophomore, I had the opportunity to participate in campus events, volunteer at commencement ceremonies, provide service to our local community, and contribute to building a lasting legacy for future generations of the program. One of the accomplishments I am most proud of was helping establish our presence within the Bakersfield community through the official adoption of a local park dedicated to our program. Experiences like these showed me the true impact that student leadership and community service can have beyond the campus. The program also introduced me to friendships and a strong sense of belonging. I was surrounded by like-minded individuals who were passionate about making a difference, and those connections became one of the most valuable parts of my experience.

The Sensational Sophomore Program is much more than a campus organization; it is an initiative built with the purpose of developing students into leaders who can make an impact in various settings. The lessons, experiences, and relationships I gained through this program are qualities that I carry with me as I continue to grow.



"I was surrounded by like-minded individuals who were passionate about making a difference, and those connections became one of the most valuable parts of my experience."

CHINAZO OKEY-DIKE
CLASS OF 2026 | PRESIDENT

The Sensational Sophomores Program is nothing like an ordinary club or organization; it gave me a true sense of belonging in what at times felt like a very confusing world. As a first-generation student whose family was never involved in organizations or clubs, I found it difficult to talk to members in the beginning and often felt nervous stepping outside of my comfort zone. However, as I progressed through the program, I learned how easy it could be to connect with others without fear or concern. Through the Sensational Sophomores Program, I gained the confidence and ability to speak at important events, attend meaningful opportunities, become part of the CSUB Hall of Fame, and become a member of the Roadrunner Society. Without Sensational Sophomores, I do not believe I would have accomplished any of these things, especially overcoming my fear of public speaking. This program not only helped me grow as a student but also helped shape me into a more confident and involved person.

As a Sensational Sophomore, I was able to experience a true sense of belonging at CSUB. Through this program, I found comfort, connection, and opportunities that not everyone gets the chance to experience. There is so much to love about this program, and I was blessed to serve as President for the Class of 2027– I truly loved every minute of it. The students became the highlight of my role as many of them would stop to talk to me, joke with me, or simply connect because of the relationships built through this program. I loved being able to meet so many different students, all amazing in their own ways. The Sensational Sophomores Program is more than just an organization. We are a family that supports one another, creates lasting connections, and helps students feel welcomed and involved on campus. Being a part of this program gave me memories, friendships, leadership skills, and experiences that I will carry with me forever, and it positively shaped my college experience in ways I will always be grateful for.



"The Sensational Sophomores Program is more than just an organization. We are a family that supports one another, creates lasting connections, and helps students feel welcomed and involved on campus"

YVETTE RODRIGUEZ
CLASS OF 2027 | PRESIDENT
(Graduated with Class of 2026)

For more than a decade, the Sensational Sophomores Program has served as a cornerstone for student leadership development at CSUB. By fostering an environment that empowers students to continue their academic and professional growth, the program provides members with opportunities to master their leadership skills and provide support on campus and within the community through meaningful opportunities.

As Vice President of the Class of 2027, I can personally attest to the monumental growth this program makes possible. The encouragement and opportunities provided have strengthened my professional skills, including public speaking, effective collaboration, and leadership. These experiences have improved my ability to communicate effectively in front of an audience, work productively with others, and identify opportunities to take initiative and make a meaningful impact.

Most importantly, the Sensational Sophomores Program has provided me with the opportunity to build a family. From the monthly meetings filled with a vibrant community to the Alternative Spring Break initiatives that we organize and participate in, each experience has brought members from all walks of life together and fostered a sense of purpose and belonging.



ARTURO MAGAÑA-MAGAÑA
CLASS OF 2027 | VICE PRESIDENT

During my time in the Sensational Sophomores Program, I've been able to grow and learn so much more than I would've done on my own. I worked alongside my fellow classmates to help those in need, develop leadership skills, and make a difference in and outside of my community. Our work with CAPK, Catalina Island, and other campus events foster a campus community. Being able to help others has always been a big part of why I joined the program to begin with. This program helped me to connect more with my campus community and make lasting friendships. Working as the President of the organization has provided me with invaluable opportunities for growth that I want to provide for my fellow classmates. It is an important goal of this program to foster those skills and create opportunities for our students to shine.

The Sensational Sophomores Program helps to make a lasting impact for our students and community. As mentioned previously, working with CAPK to provide meals for those who are suffering from food insecurity or during Food Distribution to provide students and families with lasting support. It emphasizes the importance of coming together for those in need. Our efforts reach beyond just the CSUB campus and into other places such as our work in the Catalina Islands. The natural beauty of the Catalina Islands is threatened by invasive species that spread rapidly across the island. With limited manpower, efforts to remove these invasive species is difficult which is why we chose to help. During our stay on the Island, we truly showcased the awe-inspiring beauty of the Island and made our efforts of preservation that much more vital. The program highlights service as a means of development and I couldn't agree more. This is one of many volunteer efforts that the Sensational Sophomores Program assists in and has empowered many of our students to give back.



AYDAN STARMAN
CLASS OF 2028 | PRESIDENT

CLASS OF 2026: CREATING A LEGACY

The Class of 2026 leaves behind a lasting legacy of service, leadership, and community impact. Throughout their time in the program, students demonstrated a commitment to improving their community while mentoring younger cohorts and helping shape the future of the Sensational Sophomores Program. As the program's graduating cohort, they served as role models for members and established projects that will continue benefiting both the program and the Bakersfield community for years to come.

Overview

- 13 Active Members (Nearly half of active members completed their degrees one semester ahead of schedule)
- Graduating Cohort of Student Leaders
- Adopt-A-Park partnership established

Highlights

- Established the program's adoption of Kroll Park through the City of Bakersfield's Adopt-A-Park Program.
- Participated in beautification, cleanup, and maintenance efforts that improved a shared community space.
- Mentored and encouraged newer cohorts as they progressed through the program.
- Modeled long-term commitment to leadership, service, and personal development.
- Contributed to program and community initiatives throughout their time at CSUB.
- Demonstrated how consistent service can create an impact extending beyond a student's time in college.

Legacy Project: Kroll Park

Through the City of Bakersfield's Adopt-A-Park Program, the Class of 2026 established a lasting service initiative at Kroll Park. Students contributed to the care and beautification of the park while helping strengthen the program's relationship with the surrounding community.

Their work created more than a one-time service project. It established a foundation for future Sensational Sophomores cohorts to continue serving together through meaningful, visible, and sustainable volunteer efforts. The Class of 2026 leaves the program with a legacy that future students can build upon.



CLASS OF 2027: LEADERSHIP THROUGH SERVICE

The Class of 2027 demonstrated a strong commitment to leadership, service, and academic success. Students actively participated in community service projects, leadership opportunities, and professional development experiences while continuing to support one another through their college journey.

Overview

- 41 active members
- 624.5 Volunteer & Leadership Hours Completed Collectively
- 267 Meeting Attendances Recorded
- Nearly 50% graduated a year early

Highlights

- Supported the Open Door Network during their Alternative Spring Break by assisting with kitchen responsibilities, sanitizing outdoor areas, organizing residential spaces, and completing warehouse projects.
- Supported community food distributions that provided resources to individuals and families throughout Kern County.
- Participated in the Student Leadership Summit and explored leadership, communication, confidence, and personal development.
- Attended professional development workshops focused on preparing for life after college.
- Participated in community cleanups and beautification projects throughout Bakersfield.
- Balanced service and program participation with strong academic progress, with nearly half of the cohort completing their degrees one year early.
- Supported the Sophomore class (Class of 2028) members by demonstrating consistency, responsibility, and commitment to the program's three pillars of leadership, service, and personal development.

2026-2027 Goal:

By May 2027, at least 80% of active Class of 2027 members will complete an individualized post-graduation action plan identifying their intended next step toward employment, graduate school, military service, public service, or another career goal. Members will also participate in at least two career-readiness experiences, such as a networking event, career fair, professional workshop, internship preparation session, or graduate-school program, etc. Progress will be tracked through action plans, participation records, and an end-of-year survey measuring confidence in their next step after graduation.



CLASS OF 2028: GROWTH THROUGH ENGAGEMENT

The Class of 2028 entered the program with enthusiasm and quickly established themselves as an engaged and service-oriented cohort. Throughout the year, students participated in leadership development opportunities, professional workshops, community service initiatives, and campus engagement activities that strengthened their connection to both the university and the Bakersfield community.

Overview

- 74 Active Members
- Students collectively contributed 560 volunteer hours to the community
- 98% Positive Program Feedback

Highlights

- Participated in an Alternative Spring Break experience on Santa Catalina Island, where students supported environmental restoration by caring for native plant species and removing invasive plants.
- Attended the Spring Career Expo to connect with employers, explore career opportunities, and practice professional networking.
- Participated in the JCPenney Suit-Up event to learn about professional attire and prepare for interviews, internships, and future employment.
- Completed community beautification and maintenance projects at Kroll Park.
- Supported Community Action Partnership of Kern food distribution events, helping provide essential resources to local families.
- Participated in Keep Bakersfield Beautiful projects and other community cleanup efforts.
- Engaged in Homecoming and campus activities that strengthened school spirit and students' connection to CSUB.

2026-2027 Goal:

By May 2027, the Class of 2028 will complete a service initiative addressing one of the community needs identified through their 2025–2026 end-of-year survey. Student officers will select the area of need and help coordinate a related volunteer opportunity. In the 2026–2027 end-of-year survey, at least 75% of participating students will report that the experience increased their understanding of the selected need and allowed them to make a meaningful contribution to the community.



LOOKING AHEAD: 2026–2027 GOALS

As the Sensational Sophomores Program continues to grow, the program remains committed to creating meaningful experiences that encourage leadership development, community engagement, and personal growth among students. During the 2026–2027 academic year, the program will welcome the incoming Class of 2029 while continuing to support the Classes of 2028 and 2027 through leadership, service, and career development opportunities.

Through workshops, community service, campus involvement, and social opportunities, the Class of 2029 will build relationships, discover their strengths, and become more connected to CSUB and the greater Bakersfield community. The program will also become more intentional about helping students recognize how the skills developed through these experiences can support their academic, professional, and personal goals.

Class of 2029: Incoming Class

By May 2027, at least 70% of active Class of 2029 members will report that the Sensational Sophomores Program strengthened their connection to the campus community and supported their growth as students and emerging leaders. This goal will be measured by comparing responses from surveys administered throughout the academic year.

Establishing a Foundation for Future Readiness

During the 2026–2027 academic year, the program will collect baseline data on students’ ability to identify the skills they are developing and connect those skills to future academic, professional, and personal opportunities. The results will help establish measurable career-readiness goals for future cohorts.

Progress will be measured through surveys administered at the beginning, middle, and end of the academic year. These surveys will assess students’ sense of belonging, leadership development, personal growth, awareness of the skills they are developing, and confidence in applying those skills to future opportunities.

Together, the Classes of 2027, 2028, and 2029 will continue the program’s legacy by creating meaningful opportunities for leadership, service, personal development, and connection.



ASI BOARD 2025-2026



BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Antonio Reyes
President
B.A. in Music



Emelia Reed
Executive Vice President
B.A. in Liberal Studies
and Minor in Studio Art



Marcos Ramirez
Vice President of University Affairs
B.S. in Biology and
Criminal Justice



Riley Gallego
Vice President of Finance
B.A. in Liberal Studies



Esmeralda Morales
Vice President of Campus Life
B.A. in Liberal Studies
Minor in Business



Nathan Barron
Director of Clubs
and Organizations
Biology and Theatre



Kenneth Barrios
Director of
Veterans Affairs
Political Science



Josalynn Brown
Director of
CSUB-AV
Liberal Studies



Jazmin Chavez
Director of
ASI Outreach
Psychology



Mario Enriquez
Director of
Graduate Students
Health Care Administration



Zaina Farraj
Chairwoman
Political Science
and Business



David Garcia
Director of
Accessibility
and Essential Needs
Business



Rigoberto Onofre Gutierrez
Director of Student
Housing Relations
Liberal Studies



Huy Le
Director of Business and
Public Administration
Business



Ciya Liz Manoj
Director of Natural
Sciences, Mathematics,
and Engineering
Biology



Bee Santana Nava
Director of
Arts and Humanities
Art and Child, Adolescent,
and Family Studies



Skye Odom
Director of Student
Athlete Relations
Psychology



Valeria Ortiz-Alvarado
Director of
Sustainability
Psychology and
Minor in Child, Adolescent,
and Family Studies



Isaac Oyeniyi
Director of Diversity
and Inclusivism
Geology



Darci Ross-Smith
Director of
Transfer Students
English and Business



Elliott Wilson
Director of Social
Sciences and Education
Political Science



Christine Ziemann
Director of Students
with Disabilities
Psychology

***Not pictured:**
Haylee Hernandez
Samuel Bautista
Francisco Gonzalez

YEAR IN REVIEW: ASI PRESIDENT

ASI RENOVATIONS

This year, ASI successfully completed the renovation of the Lynnette Zelezny Board Room, transforming it into a modern and versatile space available to all students, student organizations, and campus partners. The renovated Board Room provides a professional environment for meetings, events, leadership development, and collaboration creating new opportunities for students to engage with one another and with the broader campus community.

In addition, ASI completed renovations to the ASI Office to improve functionality, accessibility, and the overall experience for students seeking services and support. As the primary location for student government operations, advocacy efforts, and student engagement initiatives, the updated office better reflects ASI's role in serving and representing the student body.

The completion of these renovations represents a long-term investment in student leadership at CSUB. By improving the spaces where students collaborate and make decisions that impact campus life, ASI has strengthened its ability to serve current and future students. These updated facilities will support student leaders and organizations for years to come.

ASI RESPONSE TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN AND STUDENT BASIC NEEDS CRISIS

During the federal government shutdown, many students faced uncertainty regarding access to essential resources, particularly those who relied on federal assistance programs such as SNAP benefits. Recognizing the potential impact on student well-being, ASI took a proactive leadership role in coordinating support efforts across campus. Working alongside university departments and community partners, ASI focused on identifying students who might be at risk of food insecurity or financial hardship and ensuring they were connected to available resources as quickly as possible.

As part of this response, ASI partnered with the Center for Accessibility and Essential Needs (CAEN) to organize the Runner Care Drive in support of the CSUB Food Pantry. The initiative brought together students, faculty, staff, and members of the broader community to donate food and hygiene products during a period of increased demand. Through these efforts, more than 600 pounds of food were collected for students in need. ASI also secured more than \$15,000 in donations to the Food Pantry from ASI and the President's Cabinet to strengthen food pantry operations to students experiencing hardship. In addition, ASI worked with the Veteran Success Center and other campus partners to identify students who may have been affected by disruptions in federal assistance programs and connect them with campus resources, food assistance, and temporary emergency financial aid. These efforts demonstrated ASI's commitment to ensuring that students had access to the support necessary to continue their education during a time of uncertainty.



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ASI FEE REFERENDUM

One of the most significant accomplishments of the year was the successful passage of the ASI Fee Referendum. ASI is responsible for supporting student programs, leadership opportunities, advocacy initiatives, and services that directly benefit the student body. However, ASI's funding structure had remained largely unchanged for decades despite increasing costs and growing student needs. To address these challenges, ASI launched a comprehensive student outreach and education campaign focused on the importance of sustainable funding and the long-term value of student-led programs and services.

The referendum was approved by 75% of voting students, demonstrating strong support for investing in the future of student life at CSUB. As a result, ASI's annual budget is projected to grow from approximately \$600,000 to more than \$1.6 million by 2031. This historic investment will allow future student leaders to expand campus programming, strengthen student advocacy efforts, increase support for student organizations, and create new opportunities for student engagement. The long-term impact is especially evident in direct student support programs. Prior to the referendum, ASI provided \$30,000 annually in scholarships. Under the long-term financial plan approved by students, ASI will be able to significantly expand scholarships and establish additional assistance programs such as parking permit scholarships, gas cards, grocery assistance, club support, travel scholarships, and printing services. By 2031, these programs are projected to provide nearly \$500,000 annually in direct support to students, ensuring that student fee dollars are reinvested into resources that promote student success and retention.



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ANTHONIO REYES

YEAR IN REVIEW: EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT

ASI'S RELATIONSHIP WITH ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

ASI maintained a healthy relationship with Academic Affairs and upheld the principle of shared governance. This year, I had the pleasure of serving on the Academic Senate Academic Support and Student Success Committee, Academic Affairs Committee, Provosts Council, and Academic Senate. In those spaces I was able to provide not only a student perspective, but a community perspective. Our campus is fortunate to serve a community that understands the benefit of higher education and is consistently seeking to access our institution. This has made the charge of Academic Affairs particularly exciting, because there are many different directions that the university can grow into to meet the needs of our students. On the various committees, in addition to data, the nuances of Kern County was crucial to creating a robust and community driven perspective that will benefit the campus community and Kern County for years to come.

AI WORKSHOPS

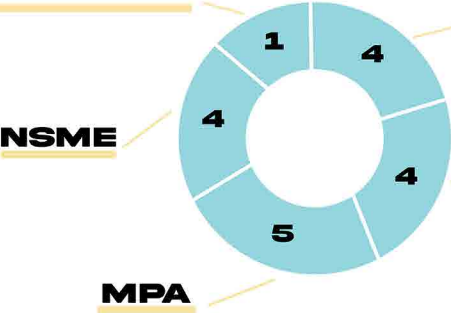
This year ASI collaborated with the Office of the Dean of Students to develop the Ethical Use of AI Guidelines. This aids students in navigating how to use AI while upholding the integrity of their education, respecting the intellectual property of other academics, and supporting their own online safety and privacy. Once these guidelines were developed, we went out to reach students by hosting events targeted to each of the four academic colleges at CSUB where students could anonymously share their experiences with AI and engage in discussion with myself and other students about how they use artificial intelligence in the classroom and in their own lives. Students were able to share freely their experiences which improved their relationship with our ASI and instilled greater trust in our campus as a whole.

SCHOLARSHIPS:

ASI awards enrolled students scholarships for up to \$500 for the semester. Awarding a total of 60 students that presented financial hardship.

HEALTH CARE ADMIN

EDUCATIONAL COUNSELING



MASTERS OF SOCIAL WORK

A&H



BPA

SSE



EMELIA REED



CAMPUS LIFE

By: Esmeralda Morales



CAMPUS LIFE COMMITTEE

The Campus Life Committee is always committed to enhancing the student experience by promoting engagement, fostering campus pride, and supporting programs that encourage student involvement and spirit. This year, the committee worked to enhance opportunities for students to connect with one another, participate in campus traditions, and build a stronger sense of community. As a team, students focused on the following goals:

- Build and enhance events that promote well-being, inclusion, and belonging.
- Collaborate and strengthen partnerships with departments to develop new events.
- Continue to promote student engagement with commuter students.

Through the Committee's effort, the Runner Nights Carnival featured a live performance by Niko Rubio, an up-in-coming artist from Los Angeles. It provided students with an experience that complemented the late-night programming experience and her performance created an energetic and spirited atmosphere. The performance contributed to the success of the annual signature event by bringing students together in a safe and fun environment.

The impact of the committee this year resulted in a more active and vibrant campus life, due in part to the many partnerships and efforts of departments. By collaborating with others, there were more student-centered activities that fostered students' sense of belonging and spirit.



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COMMITTEE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Brought back the Runner Nights Concert, which campus hasn't seen since 2021.
- Collaborated for our Runner Nights Carnival, being able to support with additional monies to make the carnival bigger and better.
- Introduced our first ever talent show, with over 100 people in attendance.
- Organize referendum events and mobile tabling's for student awareness, leading to an overwhelming pass of the referendum "Runnervation"
- Collaborated with School Directors to organize events for each of their respective schools.
- Organized a blood bank donation drive, receiving over 50 donations.

RELEVANT DATA

- 65 Events, programs, and collaborations through the campus life committee.
- Over 2,000 students served through the 2025-2026 school year.



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FINANCE COMMITTEE

By: Riley Gallego



COMMITTEE ACCOMPLISHMENTS & RELEVANT DATA

Club Funding Policy Changes

To support students organizations and overall campus life, the Club Funding Policy was revised. In previous years, clubs could only receive up to 90% of their requested funding and were required to contribute the remaining 10% from their own funds. After seeing how difficult this was for many organizations, especially newer clubs with limited resources, the Finance Committee approved a policy change allowing clubs and organizations to receive 100% funding for approved events and travel. This change has helped to make funding more accessible.

Budget Approval

The Finance Committee also played an important role in developing and overseeing the ASI budget throughout the year. Committee members reviewed budget allocations and approved the annual ASI budget, which was over \$650,000, to ensure student fee dollars were being used responsibly. To better understand the budget process, members of the committee met with accounting staff to review budget reports and gain a clearer understanding of how student fee funds are managed. This knowledge made it easier for the committee members to communicate budget information more effectively to the ASI Board of Directors.

Supporting Clubs & Orgs

This year, the Finance Committee reviewed and approved 95 funding requests from clubs and organizations. Through these requests, over \$37,000 was distributed to support student events and travel. The committee worked hard to ensure funds were distributed fairly and used to maximize student engagement. By the end of the academic year, all club funding dollars allocated to support student involvement had been awarded.

Growth in Student Involvement

This year was especially exciting because CSUB surpassed 100 chartered clubs and organizations for the first time since the COVID-19 pandemic. As more students became involved on campus, the Finance Committee helped support that growth by providing support to both new and established organizations.



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Student Leadership Council Meetings

This year also marked an important transition for Student Leadership Council (SLC) meetings. In previous years, these meetings were chaired by the ASI President. This year, the responsibility shifted to the ASI Vice President of Finance, with the Director of Clubs and Organizations serving as Co-Chair. While this created additional responsibilities for the Finance Committee, we were able to work more closely with student leaders and better understand the needs of clubs across campus. Throughout the year, we lead six SLC meetings, with approximately 40 to 50 student leaders attending each meeting.

Improving Communication

The committee also improved communication with clubs and organizations. Through the Clubs and Organizations Discord and weekly newsletters sent by the Director of Clubs and Organizations, student leaders had better access to information about upcoming events, deadlines, funding, etc. These announcements helped keep organizations informed and connected to the campus.

Club Fundraising Day

The Finance Committee helped organize and support Club Fundraising Day each semester, hosting one event in the fall and one in the spring. More than 20 clubs participated in each event, using the opportunity to raise funds for their club. Combined, participating clubs raised over \$3,000 throughout the academic year, demonstrating the success of these events. I am very thankful to Ruby Gomez, Kim Guzman, and R'Leesha Gooden for their support.

ASI Website for Student Funding

One initiative I took over the summer was improving the way student organizations access funding information. Previously, funding applications were held on a separate platform that often created confusion and technical issues for students. To simplify the process, I worked to move event and travel funding applications directly onto the ASI website, creating a more accessible experience for clubs and organizations. Additionally, I developed a step by step PowerPoint guide that walks students through the funding application process and the guidelines. These resources helped make the process easier to understand and reduced confusion for student leaders. Feedback from clubs and organizations was positive about this change.

Student Leaders Retreat

Over the summer, the Director of Clubs and Organizations and I helped plan the Student Leaders Retreat, which was held to prepare student leaders for the upcoming year and help them build connections with one another. One of the activities involved, which was randomly grouping club leaders together, was challenged to create a collaborative event that incorporated all the clubs in that group. One group developed the idea for a Family Lego Night and was selected as the winning team. What makes this so impactful is that the "hypothetical event" began as a retreat activity, but the students were excited about the idea that they decided to turn it into a real event. The club leaders worked together to bring the event to life, and it was a great success, bringing families and students together.



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UNIVERSITY AFFAIRS

By: Marcos Ramirez



COMMITTEE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

University Affairs focused on improving student accessibility, student engagement, and communication between students and university administrators. The committee reached out to students with two surveys that received more than 300 responses and many different tabling sessions. University Affairs was able to collaborate with many departments such as dining, visual arts, college of NSME, student housing, and athletes to help the committee to successfully address student concerns while also working on long term initiatives that will continue beyond this year.

The committee established stronger communication between students and campus administrators by having regular meetings and email follow ups. Some of the student feedback regarding class availability, campus accessibility, WiFi connectivity, transportation, dining services, and bookstore affordability was actively collected and presented to the appropriate departments. The committee advocated for the opening of new class sections for the spring semester and due to this advocacy, Dr. Harper allocated an extra \$700,000 for the upcoming semester. The committee was able to collect student concerns and due to the lockdown, that took place at the beginning of the spring semester and due to the advocacy of this committee Dr. Harper allocated \$1,000,000 to ensure that students felt safe at CSUB.

The committee advocated for expanded Panda Express hours, improved WiFi coverage across campus, increased transparency regarding physical ID replacement fees, better stocking of feminine hygiene products, and adding seating and umbrellas around campus. Additional accomplishments included reporting campus tripping hazards, addressing overflowing trash bins and added new trash cans in the visual art building, improving parking lot visibility through repainting initiatives, and advocating for clearer allergen information in dining facilities. The committee supported Director of the NSME with their FabLab event where they hosted an event to help connect students with professors. The committee helped to create Student Parent Family Game Day, which welcomed over 200 attendees and promoted inclusion and community engagement among student families. Student testimonies collected regarding challenges within the Physics and Engineering Department resulted in the drafting of Resolution UA-201, advocating for expanded tutoring services, additional faculty, increased course sections, and accountability for educational quality.

MAJOR INITIATIVES/PROJECTS

Accessible Transportation System

The committee began researching and advocating for an accessible on-campus transportation system designed to support students with disabilities. Research on similar systems across CSU campuses and potential funding opportunities was initiated, laying the groundwork for future implementation.

Runner Discount Program

The Runner Discount Program in collaboration with University Advancement and local businesses. This initiative aims to provide discounts for CSUB students at local businesses while strengthening community partnerships.

Expansion of the Physics & Engineering Department

One of the committee's largest advocacy efforts involved collecting student testimonies regarding concerns within the Physics and Engineering Department. These concerns included limited tutoring support, insufficient course sections, and faculty accountability. The committee drafted Resolution UA-201, which advocates for a dedicated tutoring center, additional faculty hiring, expanded course offerings, and improved communication between administration and students within the Physics Department.

Broadcasting Open Forums in the Runner Cafe

To improve student awareness of open forums, the committee initiated the broadcasting of university meetings and forums on TVs in the Runner Cafe. The Budget Forum in Spring 2026 created a new opportunity for students to engage with campus discussions and public meetings in a more accessible setting.

Runner Bookstore Merchandise Initiative

The committee advocated for more inclusive bookstore merchandise sizing, increased discount opportunities, and branded collaboration merchandise.

Campus Sustainability and Cleanliness Efforts

The committee addressed ongoing concerns regarding trash overflow, recycling confusion, and communicating campus cleanliness. Collaboration with Facilities Management and Sustainability staff which resulted in increased trash rotations and additional bins placed in high traffic areas.

K-12 District Collaboration

The purpose of the initiative is to better support student parents by gathering district academic calendars and increasing awareness among faculty regarding challenges faced by students with dependents. The project seeks to encourage greater flexibility for student parents when children have school closures, late start days, or other educational obligations.

Dining and Food Options for Housing Students

Progress included the development of appliance use policies in the community center, the availability of the grill, and the installation of vending machines in housing areas. The initiative supports student wellness by providing residents with more affordable and flexible food preparation options while encouraging future expansion of housing amenities.

Family Game Day

Gave student parents and their families free admission to a CSUB athletic event, creating opportunities for community engagement and family participation in campus life. The event welcomed more than 200 attendees and showed the demand for family centered programming on campus.

LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

MARCOS RAMIREZ

I am continuing my academic journey by pursuing my Master’s in Biology at CSUB. I am currently working as a biology consultant here in town. Serving as the Vice President of University Affairs was one of my most rewarding parts of my college journey. I am honored to have been able to advocate for students while contributing to initiative that will impact the campus. I was able to develop valuable leaderships skills that I will carry throughout my future career.

ESMERALDA MORALES

After graduating, I plan on continuing my education here at CSUB by pursuing a Masters in Public Administration. My time here at CSUB didn’t start off so involved, however I was able to join such a wonderful community that I am forever grateful for. I learned the importance of having mentors and staff/faculty that can guide you in your journey, especially when times get tough. This past year wasn’t easy, especially within ASI as we were hit with many challenges. But through it all, everyone in the organization stuck together, grew, and got stronger. I learned how to rely on my team, and even through failure, pick myself back up and grow stronger. Each member of the Campus Life Committee taught me something important. They taught me resilience, responsibility, honesty, and most of all the importance to enjoy every second of our time in ASI. When going into student leadership, I didn’t expect everything that would come our way. It was a lot of hardship, especially juggling work, school, and ASI. There was oftentimes long nights and tears, but through it all there was one point that I focused on: students. It was my goal that I make an impact at least on one student, because if I was able to do that, I knew my time as a student leader was worthwhile.

RILEY GALLEGO

I am incredibly grateful for the opportunity to have been a part of ASI over the past two years. When I was in high school and even during my first year at college, I never really saw myself as a student leader. Advocacy, leadership, and public speaking were all things that felt outside of my comfort zone. Looking back now, joining ASI was one of the best decisions I have made during my time at CSUB. Through ASI, I have had the opportunity to meet amazing people and learn from student leaders, staff, and administrators. I have been able to develop skills that will stay with me long after graduation. The experiences I have gained have helped me grow both personally and professionally. Most importantly, ASI taught me that leadership is not always easy. There were plenty of times when I had to step outside my comfort zone, speak up when I was nervous, or make decisions that were not always simple. Through those experiences, I learned how important it is to listen to others and work through challenges even when it feels difficult. After graduation, I will be entering the Kern Urban Teacher Residency Program in partnership with Bakersfield City School District. Through this program, I will complete my student teaching and begin my journey toward becoming an elementary educator. I am excited to work with students and make a positive impact in the classroom. I will be sure to apply the leadership and communication skills I developed through ASI. I will always be thankful for the opportunities ASI provided me. Without this experience, I would not be the student that I am today.

EMELIA REED

Over the summer I will be finishing the construction of a new sign for the CSUB Edible Garden in collaboration with ASI. For this project I drafted the structure which will be welded on campus and have designed the tiles with other student artists that will adorn the sign. This September I will be a Climate Action Coordinator at the Center for Accessibility and Essential Needs at CSU Bakersfield through the Climate Action Corps of California. This is an eleven-month fellowship where I will be working primarily at the food pantry on campus where I will expand community partnerships to increase access to food for students, faculty, and staff. This role will also continue my work in the Edible Garden in leading field trips for a local elementary school. Here we educate fifth grade students about garden safety, natural processes like the water cycle, and how to be sustainable gardeners in their own lives, among other things. During this time, I will also be working on my art practice and building up my portfolio to apply to grad school. I am a ceramic artist, and I will be applying for my Masters in Fine Arts.

Entering this year, my team and I had a clear set of principles and ideals about how we wanted to lead the organization. There were many instances where we were given the opportunity to test our devotion to these principles, and I am proud to share that through open and honest discourse we succeeded in leading in the manner that we had set out to, from the beginning. Much of the work to be done was contingent upon campus relationships and was made possible through reinvigorating our connection to student leaders. Having grown up in Bakersfield, and serving a student population that is primarily from Kern County, my personal identity and devotion to serving the students at CSU Bakersfield deeply connected. The work as a student leader is rooted in a love for my community and the belief that higher education is one of the greatest tools for personal development and economic mobility. The regional nature of the campus lends itself to a community oriented campus culture and has provided me with a tremendously fulfilling experience as a student leader.



ANTHONIO REYES

After graduating from California State University, Bakersfield, I will be staying at CSUB to pursue my teaching credential while beginning my career as a 5th/6th grade teacher with the Fruitvale School District this August. I am excited to work with students and give back to the same community that helped shape me. Outside of the classroom, I plan to continue pursuing my passion for music and performing with several bands throughout California and beyond. One of the opportunities I am most excited about is performing at the Puerto Rico Salsa Festival with one of the groups I perform with. As I move into this next stage of life, I am grateful for everything CSUB has given me. The experiences and relationships I found here have had a lasting impact on me, and serving as a student leader has been one of the most meaningful parts of my college experience.

Reflecting on this year, I am incredibly proud of what our Board of Directors was able to accomplish in a relatively short period of time. From completing major renovation projects to responding to student needs during the federal government shutdown and successfully passing the ASI Fee Referendum, our board was able to make lasting and impactful contributions to the student experience at CSUB. These accomplishments would not have been possible without the dedication and commitment of an exceptional group of student leaders who consistently put students first and worked together to achieve common goals.

One of the things that makes ASI at CSUB unique is the type of student leaders it attracts. Unlike many student governments within the CSU, our Board of Directors is not primarily composed of students pursuing careers in politics or government. Instead, our board is made up of students from a wide variety of academic disciplines and backgrounds who are motivated by a genuine desire to serve their peers and improve the campus community. Many of us come from the same communities as the students we represent, which helps keep our work true to the experiences of CSUB students. I believe that says a great deal about the culture of leadership that has been cultivated at this university.

What makes me most proud is not any single accomplishment, but the collective effort behind them and the willingness of our board to take on challenges that will have lasting effects on future students. Throughout the year, directors dedicated countless hours to serving on campus committees, representing students in important conversations with university leadership, and making difficult decisions that required balancing competing perspectives and priorities. We did not always agree, but we consistently took the time to listen to one another, understand where each person was coming from, and work toward solutions together. At the end of the day, we knew that we were students working for students and we only had the students' best interest at heart. That culture of respect and service is what I will remember most from my time as President, and it is what gives me confidence that ASI will continue to be a strong voice for students in the years ahead.



JOSALYNN BROWN

Josalynn began a multiple subject teaching credential at CSUB Antelope Valley.



MARIO ENRIQUEZ

Mario had his dissertation published and is continuing to work for Kaiser Permanente.



ZAINA FARRAJ

Zaina is applying for admission to law school for Fall of 2027.



CIYA LIZ MANOJ

Ciya has applied for medical school admission in Spring of 2027. Receiving an offer from A.T. Still University, School of Osteopathic Medicine at Arizona



BEE SANTANA NAVA

Bee is now an infant teacher at La Escuelita Early Learning Center.



VALERIA ORTIZ-ALVARADO

Valeria was accepted into CSUB's M.S. Counseling Psychology Program.



DARCI ROSS-SMITH

Darci has started her first year at San Jose State University's Master's in Library and Information Science Program, that prepares students to work as librarians in a variety of fields. Her projected graduation is Spring 2029.

ASI BANQUET

ASI held their annual End-of-Year Ceremony at the end of April to celebrate the accomplishments, service, and leadership of the outgoing Board. In addition to recognizing ASI student leaders, the Ceremony also recognized all partners and liaisons to the Board and thanked them for a wonderful year of engagement and service to the student body. During the Program, there are students selected from each of ASI's Committees to be recognized, in addition to all of the members within the Committee. There is also a Campus Department Champion that is recognized for going above and beyond in service and support to the student body that the ASI Executive Officers select, as well as a Board Member of the Year that is recognized for their contributions to the student body.

Finance Committee – Riley Gallego, Vice President of Finance

The members of the Finance Committee this year were the following: (1) Huy Le, Director for the College of Business and Public Administration, (2) Nathan Barron, Director of Clubs and Organizations Outreach, (3) Francisco Gonzalez, Director of Veterans Affairs (Fall 2025), and (4) David Garcia, Director of Accessibility & Essential Needs. Each of them made proactive contributions and support to student organizations this year.

The Finance Committee Member of the Year was awarded to Nathan Barron. Nathan was recognized for his huge role during Student Leadership Council meetings. He helped plan and lead collaborations with 40-50 club leaders and always made sure that the clubs felt seen and heard. He also worked to send out weekly newsletters that highlighted club events.

Campus Life – Esmeralda Morales, Vice President of Campus Life

The members of the Campus Life Committee this year were the following: (1) Elliott Wilson, Director for the College of Social Sciences and Education, (2) Isaac Oyeniyi, Director of Diversity and Inclusion, (3) Jazmin Chavez, Director of ASI Outreach, (4) Kenneth Barrios, Director of Veterans Affairs (Spring 2026), (5) Mario Enriquez, Director of Graduate Students, and (6) Josalynn Brown, Director of CSUB-AV. The Campus Life Committee continued and expanded upon student life and engagement this year.

The Campus Life Committee Member of the Year was awarded to Mario Enriquez. Mario was recognized for being a leader that was always available and willing to help. He supported all events and made meetings enjoyable. He worked full time but always committed to events and meetings and he always kept the committee in check with their budget.



University Affairs – Marcos Ramirez, Vice President of University Affairs

The members of the University Affairs Committee this year were the following: (1) Skye Odom, Director of Student-Athlete Engagement, (2) Christine Ziemann, Director of Students with Disabilities, (3) Darci Ross-Smith, Director of Transfer Students, (4) Rigoberto Onofre-Gutierrez, Director of Student Housing Relations, (5) Valeria Ortiz Alvarado, Director of Sustainability, (6) Bee Santana Nava, Director for the College of Arts and Humanities, and (7) Ciya Liz Manoj, Director for the College of Natural Sciences, Mathematics, and Engineering. The University Affairs Committee increased their outreach and advocacy to the students.

The University Affairs Committee Member of the Year was awarded to Ciya Liz Manoj. Ciya was recognized for her dedication and focus to supporting her constituents. She always held office hours where the students were at and focused on finding and presenting solutions to concerns. She kept an open mind and communicated with campus leaders to provide student input.

ASI Board Member of the Year

The ASI Board is composed of Executive Officers and Directors, as well as liaisons and staff of ASI. With all of the projects and initiatives that came from the organization, there were many candidates that were noteworthy to be recognized as the Board Member of the Year. When reflecting on projects, advocacy, and legacy cemented at CSUB, the Executive Officers decided to award a student that had consistently represented transfer students, served as an academic tutor at the Writing Resource Center, and was always present at events and meetings. This member also always brought positivity and proactive discussions on student support in the office.

This year's ASI Board Member of the Year was awarded to Darci Ross-Smith.

Campus Department Champion

The Campus Department Champion award is traditionally given to a department that went above and beyond their normal requirements of their office. This year's group was selected for being proactive to student concerns and needs, staying in constant communication with ASI, and always being receptive and supportive to ASI projects. This leadership team also tackled on a year of multiple concerns but always stayed truthful and checked in with ASI on how to communicate and navigate tricky situations.

This year's Campus Department Champion went to President Vernon B. Harper, Jr. and his Cabinet.



GOALS SET IN 2025-2026

Student Development

- A majority of ASI members shall rank 'Comfortable' or 'Very Comfortable' in the following categories: Leading a Meeting, Public Speaking, Organizing and Hosting an Event, and Time Management.
- All ASI members shall attend a minimum of 2 personal/professional development opportunities that campus departments host.
- A majority of ASI members shall evaluate and review their resumes and career portfolios with the CECE Office (or ASI Administrative Staff).

During the 2025-2026 academic year, a total of 26 students served on the Associated Students, Inc. (ASI) Board, including members who resigned during the fall semester and students who were appointed to fill vacancies in the spring. Despite these transitions, ASI maintained a strong focus on leadership development and student engagement throughout the year. At the conclusion of the spring semester, a board assessment found that 84% of respondents rated themselves as "Very Comfortable" across the assessed leadership competency areas, indicating a high level of confidence in their roles and responsibilities.

Building on this foundation of leadership development, ASI intentionally expanded opportunities for professional growth through campus and community partnerships. As a result, every ASI Board member participated in at least two in-person professional development experiences. These opportunities allowed students to strengthen their leadership skills, connect with potential employers, and expand their professional networks in career fields aligned with their academic and professional goals.

The emphasis on leadership and professional development also supported students' post-graduation preparation. While the majority of graduating ASI student leaders secured admission to graduate programs or entered their intended career fields, only 61% completed a resume review through the ASI Administrative Office. This percentage likely reflects that some students received resume feedback through current employers or other campus resources, were not graduating during the academic year, or planned to take a gap year before pursuing graduate education or full-time employment.



Community Outreach and Partnership

ASI will participate in at least 2 community service events with 60% of members participating in each service. ASI will also partner with the Outreach Department to be present and participate at outreach events. During the reporting year, Associated Students, Inc. (ASI) participated in one major community service initiative, demonstrating its continued commitment to community engagement and civic responsibility. ASI also partnered with the University's Outreach Department to participate in recruitment and outreach activities at four local high schools. Through this collaboration, ASI representatives engaged with prospective students, shared information about student leadership opportunities and campus resources, and helped promote CSU Bakersfield as a welcoming and supportive campus community.

Enhance Campus Life

- Host larger Runner Hours
- Expand event promotion
- Increased collaboration with departments and Student Organizations

Due to a leadership transition within the Office of the Vice President for Campus Life, the implementation of Runner Hours continued during the academic year but on a more limited scale than originally envisioned by student leaders. Despite these changes, ASI remained committed to fostering student engagement by adapting its outreach strategies to better connect with the campus community.

At the beginning of the year, ASI emphasized traditional marketing efforts through social media campaigns and printed flyers. However, ongoing assessment of student engagement indicated that mobile tabling provided a more effective approach for reaching students. This strategy enabled ASI representatives to engage directly with students across campus, gather feedback on campus concerns, discuss new ideas and initiatives, promote upcoming events, and increase awareness of available student resources and opportunities.

Collaboration remained a key component of ASI's programming efforts throughout the year. Through the Student Leadership Council and established partnerships with campus departments and organizations, ASI hosted a total of 86 events, with 56 of those events delivered collaboratively. These partnerships expanded student programming opportunities, strengthened campus relationships, and enhanced the overall student experience by leveraging shared resources and expertise.

Increase Support for Student Organizations

- Provide efficient access to funding and travel support.
- Strengthen communication between ASI and clubs.
- Promote leadership development and collaboration.
- Increase funding to clubs

Supporting student organizations remained a central priority for Associated Students, Inc. (ASI) throughout the academic year. To reduce financial barriers and expand access to programming opportunities, the Finance Committee approved a significant revision to its funding process by eliminating the previous requirement that student organizations contribute 10 percent of event costs. In addition, the committee adopted a practice of fully funding eligible event requests whenever possible, enabling student organizations to focus on developing high-quality programs that enhance campus life.

To improve accessibility and transparency in the funding process, the Vice President of Finance and the Director of Clubs and Organizations Outreach provided ongoing support through regular office hours in the ASI Office and virtual appointments via Zoom. These opportunities allowed student organization leaders to receive guidance on funding policies, ask questions, and review applications prior to submission, resulting in a more supportive and student-centered funding experience. All three ASI standing committees—Finance, Campus Life, and University Affairs—demonstrated a shared commitment to strengthening student organizations and increasing student engagement. Representatives from the Finance and University Affairs Committees regularly attended Student Leadership Council meetings to gather feedback from student organizations, identify emerging needs, and discuss opportunities for improving campus resources and support services. The Campus Life Committee actively engaged with student organizations to identify collaborative programming opportunities, fostering partnerships that expanded the reach and impact of campus events. ASI also continued to invest in leadership development through the Rowdy Bunch program, which provided students with opportunities to build leadership skills, increase campus involvement, and explore future participation in student government and campus governance.

Further demonstrating its commitment to student success and engagement, the Finance Committee approved a resolution to fully fund eligible event requests submitted by student organizations and increased the maximum travel funding allocation to \$3,000 per student. These enhancements expanded opportunities for students to participate in conferences, competitions, and professional development experiences while strengthening the capacity of student organizations to deliver meaningful programs and services for the campus community.

Strengthen and Empower ASI

- Update governing documents
- Improve transparency.

Both the ASI President and the ASI Executive Vice President worked meticulously to improve transparency and communication of ASI to students. In addition to mobile tabling and sitting in on Student Leadership Council meetings, they required ASI members to gather student ideas and responses at every event that ASI hosted. Due to the restructure that happened at the beginning of the year, the ASI Bylaws were checked by ASI's legal counsel and approved by the ASI Board. The organization's codes and policies are reviewed annually by the organization to meet the fluctuating needs of students.

Invest in Student Success

- Expand academic, cultural, and leadership programs.
- Support underserved and special populations.
- Find different ways to provide aid to students

Through the referendum, the ASI Board cemented a legacy of various support to students. The referendum will provide more financial assistance to students and students at the CSUB-AV campus will also see a great benefit and impact through the referendum.



GOALS SET FOR 2026-2027

ASI Student Development

- 95% of ASI members shall rank that they are confident in public speaking, leading meetings, and event planning.
- 90% of members shall attend 2 professional development workshops hosted by campus departments each semester.
- All ASI members shall have their resumes checked through CECE or ASI Administrative Staff.

Outreach and Participation

- Use social media strategically to meet students where they already are, rather than relying only on emails and town halls
- Conduct at least 2 campus-wide surveys on how ASI can support students.
- Create simple, low-barrier ways for students to give input (polls, quick surveys, tabling).
- Partner with the Outreach Department and student organizations to expand outreach to at least 3 local high schools.

Increase Civic Engagement

- Establish twice a semester voter engagement workshops that educate the campus community about civic engagement and local government initiatives.
- Work with the University President to send out joint-communication during elections.
- Partner with the Kern County Elections Office to host two voter registration drive/awareness campaigns.

Amplify Campus Life

- ASI will host at least 3 events per month by leading an event or partnering with a department or organization.
- Create an ASI event evaluation/assessment to capture student feedback after every event. 30% of event participants will rank that they enjoyed the event and that it increased their sense of belonging.
- Increase participation in ASI-sponsored programs by 10% over the previous year.
- Host a Concert during the academic year.

Diversity, Equity & Inclusion

- ASI will partner with 2 special populations to host an awareness event.
- Promote inclusive access to leadership and involvement opportunities within ASI.

Advocacy and Student Support

- ASI will identify 5 main student issues and develop an action plan for solution.
- Provide students with a response or status on at least 50% of identified priority.



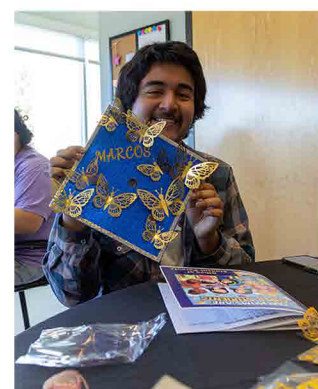
Rigoberto Onofre Gutierrez
Vice President of Campus Life

Nso Ifemeje
Executive Vice President

Malachi Hogg-Madden
Vice President of Finance

Skye Odom
Vice President of University Affairs

Nov Noor Kaur
President and CEO





"Students Working for Students"

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