



STAFF PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

August 20, 2025 • 1:00 – 3:30 p.m.

Location: Student Recreation Center

Open to all CSUB employees. We welcome all CSUB faculty, staff and auxiliary employees.

KEYNOTE SPEAKER



Dr. David G. Smith

Keynote Speaker

Education, I'd rather have it and not need it...

Doctor David G. Smith is the Chief Executive Officer of the Mojave Air and Space Port, a world-renowned flight research center spanning 3300+ acres, hosting the latest and most advanced aeronautical designs. Previously he was the Director of the multi-billion dollar Air Force Production Facility, Plant 42, where he championed essential infrastructure and support capabilities directly influencing the production and flight test mission. He is also retired from the United States Air Force with most recent duties as Inspector General for Edwards AFB and an Experimental Test Flight Radar Navigator attached to the 419th Flight Test Squadron, supporting the development, evaluation and procurement of new technologies in aircraft, performance, weaponry, and avionics. He is also the Commander, Recruiting, Training and Education Command, California Guard, where he as a Brigadier General supporting Title 32 actions for the readiness, effectiveness and integration of forces with the California Army and Air National Guard.

Doctor Smith entered the Air Force in 1982, and flew B-52's at multiple locations. He many accomplishments include earning the coveted Fairchild Trophy; an achievement recognized by President Reagan. He was hand-picked from all B-52, B-1 and FB-111 crews to accompany General Chain, CINCSAC, to represent the SAC alert force receiving the David C. Schilling Award for the year's most outstanding contribution to flight. He has also served as a Regimental Air Liaison Officer attached to the elite 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment. He has deployed to combat duty in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Doctor Smith is married to the former Denise Cook, and they share six children, a son Damien, and daughters, Daira, Darcie, Avalon, Bailee, and Madyson, along with eight grandchildren.



SPEAKER SESSIONS

Unlocking Ideas, Insights, and Impact with ChatGPT Edu

Tired of repetitive tasks, slow workflows, or blank-page syndrome? ChatGPT Edu is your AI power tool — built for CSUB staff. In this fast-paced session, you'll see real work scenarios turned into time-saving wins, from event planning to email polish. You'll see live demos using real documents, explore prompts, and connect with peers about how AI is already showing up in your work. Watch it work. Talk it through. Walk away with ideas, resources, and practical ways to use ChatGPT Edu confidently and responsibly.



Derek Chaney
Campus Trainer

Derek's Bio: Derek graduated from Humboldt State University with a B.A. in English in 2008 and has over 15 years of experience in digital media, mostly in the context of training and support for users of enterprise technology. Derek joined CSUB in July 2021 as the campus technology trainer for ITS. He lives in Bakersfield with his wife Beth, who teaches art at West High School and is active in the local art community. Derek and Beth have two children, Wyatt and Annie, of whom they are enormously fond.

Simplify the Busywork: Discover the Magic of Power Automate, The Secret Productivity Tool You Didn't Know You Had

Ever wish the tedious parts of your job could just... do themselves? Power Automate is Microsoft's automation tool that helps you eliminate repetitive tasks like sending follow-up emails, routing approval forms, organizing files, and more—no coding or IT support needed. In this session, you'll see real examples of how CSUB staff can save time and reduce errors by creating simple, automated workflows in just a few clicks. If you can describe the steps, Power Automate can help you do them—automatically.



Paula Bray
*Facilities
Management
Services Director*

Paula's Bio: With over two decades of leadership in public higher education facilities management, Paula E. Bray brings deep expertise in capital planning, operations, and strategic infrastructure development. As Director of Facilities Management Services Administration at CSU Bakersfield, she oversees capital construction, deferred maintenance, and financial operations, aligning facilities initiatives with institutional goals. Her background includes leading multi-million-dollar construction projects, implementing enterprise work order and project tracking systems, and serving as a trusted advisor to senior leadership. Paula has also contributed to local educational governance by serving as an elected Trustee for the Kern County Board of Education (2020-2024) and serves on several community boards.

