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## CSUSB co-hosts Inland Empire Federal Technical Assistance Workshop

By  
*Joe Gutierrez*  
 – October 30, 2014

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Working in partnership with U.S. Sen. Diane Feinstein’s office, Cal State San Bernardino was the site of a one-day workshop that focused on crucial issues affecting the inland region that included education, housing, business, jobs and job training, health and homelessness.



CSUSB hosted the Inland Empire Federal Technical Assistance Workshop, convened by U.S. Sen. Diane Feinstein, on Oct. 23 at the Santos Manuel Student Union Theater. Speakers included Dan Nackerman, executive director, San Bernardino County Housing Authority (top photo); Tomás Morales, CSUSB president (lower left); and Mary Jane Olhasso, San Bernardino County assistant executive

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officer (lower right). Photos: Corinne McCurdy/CSUSB

The Oct. 23 workshop's purpose was to offer a number of organizations in the region an opportunity to meet officials from various federal agencies and White House initiatives to create relationships that would be beneficial for future programs, inquiries and requests.

Attendees and speakers at the workshop, held at the university's Santos Manuel Student Union Theater and Events Center, included representatives from government agencies from San Bernardino and Riverside counties, educators, health officials, business and manufacturing leaders.

In welcoming the attendees to the workshop, CSUSB President Tomás D. Morales praised Feinstein and her staff for her leadership on the issues affecting the inland region.

"We thank Sen. Feinstein for her interest in the inland Southern California region, and for her strong leadership on key issues of great importance to our area – transportation, immigration, safety, housing, health, education and urban development," said Morales, who later gave a presentation on increasing college readiness for the region.

The presentations also included:

- Riverside County overview – George Johnson, chief assistant executive officer of Riverside County;
- San Bernardino County overview – San Bernardino County 2nd District Supervisor Janice Rutherford;
- No Child Left Unsheltered program overview – Dan Nackerman, Housing Authority of the County of San Bernardino;
- San Bernardino City Unified School District's Launch Initiative – Michael Gallo, president of district's board;
- Vocational Schools and Training in the Inland Empire – Paul Granillo, president and chief executive officer, the Inland Empire Economic Partnership, and Kathy Dutton, director of economic development, Chaffey College;
- The Manufacturing Communities Partnership – Mary Jane Ulhasso, assistant executive officer of finance and administration, San Bernardino County;
- Inland Empire Health systems – Dr. Bradley Gilbert, chief executive officer, Inland Empire Health Plan; and
- County of Riverside Coordinated Assessment and Housing Placement for Chronically Homeless and Homeless Veterans – Jill Kowalski, administrative services manager, Homeless Programs Unit for the Department of Public Social Services on the Veteran Assistance Leadership of Riverside County.

The federal officials included: Matthew Doherty, director, National Initiatives for the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness; Erich Yost, management analyst, Community Initiatives for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development; Jennifer Gerrib, 22 Network Homelessness coordinator, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs; Mark Linton, executive director, White House Strong Cities Strong Communities; Will Marshall, economic development representative, Economic Development Administration; Bryan Rogers, deputy regional administrator, Region 6, Employment and Training Administration, U.S. Department of Labor; and John Moroney, regional administrator, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

The workshop also featured a lunchtime presentation on the major issues affecting the Inland Empire's economic recovery by John Husing, the chief economist for the Inland Empire Economic Partnership.

Morales called increasing college readiness for the region a critical effort for the Inland Empire.

"The Inland Empire's future is directly linked to the ability to educate our residents and sustain a competitive work force," he said.

The president said the Inland Empire lagged behind the state in a number of education categories that included the low number of Inland Empire residents who have a bachelor's degree or higher, preparing students for college, college readiness and the number of high school students who immediately enroll in community colleges, certificate programs and four-year institutions.

To reverse those rankings, raise educational expectations and improve educational opportunities for students, Morales said a coalition was created to connect the resources of higher education institutions, K-12 education, government, health care, labor, business, and community- and faith-based organizations to establish an effective course of action for students in Riverside and San Bernardino counties.

Also, the Inland Empire Economic Partnership and the Federation for Competitive Economy helped establish a regional education council, co-chaired by Morales and UC Riverside Chancellor Kim Wilcox, where members share innovative practices and create a regional system for best practices for improved access, retention and completion. The council includes chancellors and presidents from all

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• **Contact Information**

[Office of Public Affairs](#)  
5500 University Parkway  
San Bernardino, CA  
92407-2393

Phone: (909) 537-5007  
[publicaffairs@csusb.edu](mailto:publicaffairs@csusb.edu)

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[Office of Public Affairs, California State University, San Bernardino](#)  
5500 University Parkway, San Bernardino, CA  
92407-2393  
909.537.5007 or [news@csusb.edu](mailto:news@csusb.edu)

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post-secondary institutions in the two-county region as well as the county superintendents in Riverside and San Bernardino counties.

Morales added that CSUSB is also taking a number of steps to ease the pathway to college and increase the number of Inland Empire residents earning bachelor's degrees.

These programs include:

- Agreements between CSUSB and school districts encouraging the A-G completion and guaranteed admissions to CSUSB. So far 10 districts have signed such agreements out of nearly 60 districts in the two-county region;
- Summer College Readiness Academies in the school districts to ensure students in the eighth grade are preparing themselves for the A-G curriculum;
- Expanded supplemental instruction and other academic support services for new college entrants and continuing students to increase graduation rates in shorter times;
- Strengthened transferability from the community colleges to four-year institutions;
- Revise teacher education curriculum and professional development opportunities for the common core standards, especially for math; and
- A free intensive pre-freshman, five-week boot camp at CSUSB for any student who was tested and determined to need remediation.

“We know the benefits to the region are far-reaching,” Morales said. “We are committed to working with our partners to advance a college readiness initiative throughout the Inland Empire, and we welcome and are grateful for the assistance and guidance of Sen. Feinstein’s team and our experts representing federal funding agencies and White House initiatives.”

For more information, contact the CSUSB Office of Public Affairs at (909) 537-5007 and visit [news.csusb.edu](http://news.csusb.edu).

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