



Hello Team Pack!

As we close the 2023-2024 Academic Year and we move into, what is hopefully, a more relaxing pace on campus for the summer, I want to take a moment to thank our team, our exceptional faculty and staff, for all your tremendous work that you engage in daily. You share your talents, experiences, and expertise to prepare our students to contribute their own talents and abilities in various environments within CSU Pueblo and away from our campus community. Your efforts may be to help someone start their career or advance to another level. Your support may lead a student to an opportunity in a graduate program. Your role modeling may inspire a service contribution or commitment. Regardless of where your influence sends our students, they have the foundation of a high-quality CSU Pueblo education and a beneficial Pack experience. This allows them to navigate this rapidly changing world successfully. Your dedication and passion are greatly appreciated.

I have had the honor of being part of this team. CSU Pueblo is truly something to be admired, and I cannot express enough gratitude to you. I tell people all the time that the best part about CSU Pueblo is the people. Thank you!

I also want to express a sincere thank you for the wonderful and warm welcome you have offered my family and me during my short tenure as President. Many of you have heard me say it

repeatedly that I love being here, and I am humbled and privileged to be your President. I am very excited about what is to come!

We also know that our next academic year will include some changes. As many of you are aware, after 15 years of dedicated service to CSU Pueblo, Dr. Donna Souder Hodge accepted a new position as the 12th President at Fitchburg State University in Fitchburg, Massachusetts. Her last day is June 1st , and she will be departing her role as Vice President of Operations and Advancement. We wish her well in her new and exciting endeavor.

My recent experience offers some key insight into this transition. I can only hope she inherits a team as valuable as ours here at CSU Pueblo. Dr. Souder Hodge has been an integral part of CSU Pueblo, and her work has significantly impacted our University. I appreciate her commitment and diligent effort to advance CSU Pueblo. We congratulate her and wish her all the best as she moves into this new and exciting role as university president.

As we move through this transition, we will implement a temporary organizational strategy to bridge the functionality of the Operations & Advancement areas with other divisions on campus until a more permanent structure can be developed. Right now, Cabinet and I are evaluating the current organizational structure to identify how the areas within Operations & Advancement might align with other areas and divisions within the University. At this time, I am not planning on hiring for the role of Vice President of Operations & Advancement in its current form.

We will be analyzing potential synergies and complements as part of this process. This is not a complete restructuring exercise of the University. However, there may be some adjustments

within the current structure. In the interim, I want to inform you of the temporary distribution of responsibilities as part of this “bridge” strategy. These include:

- Mr. Garrison Ortiz will manage Auxiliary Services & Facilities Operations
- Dr. Kristyn White Davis will manage Marketing & Communications
- Dr. Gail Mackin will manage Advancement
- Dr. Marie Humphrey will manage HSI & DEI Initiatives
- President Valdez will manage VISION 2028

Again, this is only a transition/bridge strategy. This distribution may not remain in this temporary reporting structure. The intent is to have a more permanent reporting structure in place by July 1, 2024, and to be fully implemented by the start of the Fall 2024 semester. I welcome any feedback or suggestions you may want to share with me.

I am proud of our Pack family/Pack familia. I look forward to getting to know you all better. Please take some time this summer to rest and relax before the 2024-2025 academic year. I am excited to see what we can accomplish this upcoming academic year together.

With gratitude,

Armando