

### What's Happening

**Campus Tour:** Last month our members got a sneak peek at Gateway Hall -- the new 'front door' along Santa Barbara Avenue that welcomes students and guests to the campus.

Fortunately, Christine Miller from Facilities was as our guide and answered many questions



about the big changes around North Quad. Gateway Hall will include about 80,000 square feet that will house Student Services, Instructional Space, Departmental Labs, offices, and Extended University - including an OLLI Classroom. Gateway will have a drone lab for ESRM and space for Mathematics, Computer Science, and Mechatronics. The cost of this project is approximately \$90M.

Dean Susan Andrzejewski led us through the new Martin V. Smith Hall, formerly Manzanita Hall, that will also include outdoor gathering and meeting spaces in the courtyard next to Solano Hall.

**CI Budget Challenges:** In a memo to the campus this fall, President Yao outlined the budget challenges: "At the start of a new academic year, we are at a pivotal moment in our 22-year history. We must confront critical operational decisions as we face financial challenges due to lower enrollment, increasing expenditures, and decreased state funding; these continue to impact our budget in 2024-25 and beyond." You can read Yao's budget memo at <https://www.csuci.edu/president/240912-presidents-budget-memo-empl.htm>

The Ventura County Star ran an article in October about the budget challenges, reporting the campus was cutting \$11.3 million from its budget for the year. This represents a combination of new reductions and temporary cuts from last year that are being made permanent. While the campus has struggled with budget challenges in the past due to increasing expenditures and decreased state funding, it faces the added challenge of declining enrollment. The Star reported that the fall enrollment was down to 4,871 students, 31% lower than the university's pre-pandemic high of more than 7,000. The Star article reported that the campus is eliminating 7.6% of its classes this year, and the equivalent of roughly 28 full time teaching jobs.

### Where Are They Now?

Many of us were not around in 2001 when CSUCI became a new university, melding the Ventura campus of CSU Northridge on the grounds of the former State Mental Hospital. But Dick Rush was. He was the ideal person. In 1984, he had been instrumental in building Cal

State San Marcos as an offshoot from San Diego State University.

Dick was the President of Minnesota State University, Mankato, in 2001 when he got the call to apply for the President of the new CSUCI. Dick's wife had recently passed away and he was open to hearing about new professional opportunities in new settings. From the start, Dick's vision was all about students. In a personal interview with every faculty member, he asked about their commitment to students. Dick said "Create something new and don't bring any baggage with you." The team had 10 months to build a new academic culture, including new policy manuals, to make that dream tangible.



Dick, alongside his wife Jane, accomplished amazing things at CI. His partnerships with business and community leaders made it possible to grow, even during the 2008 recession. He led an innovative and impassioned community in over \$230M of building renovations. He provided the educators, staff and programs to graduate over 10,000 students who today provide the workforce and prosperity for Ventura County. For 15 years, Dick kept CI's focus on students. He happily admits to tearing up at every graduation.



In 2016, Dick retired to become a care giver for Jane, who then passed away in 2020. After subsequently spending 8 months with his dog, he stepped back into society. Happily, he found mutual support from a woman friend who had recently lost her husband -- Linda Dullam. After almost two decades in directing the CI President's Dinner, she now was sharing the president's dinner -- and dishes. Together, Linda & Dick have enjoyed seeing the world with travels to the Scandinavian countries, the Christmas market along the Danube, leprechauns in Ireland, and Amtrak to New Orleans (ugh!). In 2025, they will be visiting Japan, Hong Kong, Shanghai and Havana. Dick and Linda continue their dream

together, grateful for a happy life together.

### Coming Soon

**Wills & Trusts | Tax Planning | Charitable Planning:** Join a seminar at Broome Library on Tuesday, January 14, 2025, 2-3:30 p.m. and learn from professionals to preserve your assets through at



**JESSE CAHILL, ESQ.** is an attorney with Ventura Coast Law who can help you with estate planning, trusts, and probate law -- or implement strategies to defer or reduce estate taxes for high-net-worth individuals and their families.

tax and estate planning. Contact Grace Durst [grace.robinson@csuci.edu](mailto:grace.robinson@csuci.edu) to RSVP.

**JOHN JACOBS, CPA**, is a Certified Public Accountant with Jacobs & Jacobs. the oldest public accounting firm in Ventura County, established in 1944. John has been involved as a volunteer with CSUCI since 2007.



**Reduced Membership Fee for New Members:** If you, or anyone you know, has been thinking about joining the Retiree Association, now is the time! Membership in the CI Retiree Association is linked to membership in the CSU Emeritus, Retired Faculty and Staff Association (CSU ERFSA). CSU ERFSA is offering a half price membership sale through June 30, 2025. Find out more at <https://www.csuerfsa.org/index.php/membership>. You can designate Channel Islands as your campus even if you worked at another campus after or before CI.

