



Office of the President

A Message from
President Adela de la Torre, Ph.D.

Dear San Diego State University Alumni and Friends,

I write today with deep appreciation and a profound sense of gratitude. So many of you have come forward to provide support directly benefiting our students, faculty and staff as we work together to address disruptions caused by the ongoing coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. Thank you! Please know that you are in my thoughts and that I sincerely hope for the health and well-being of you and your loved ones.

I also want to share how our impressive SDSU community has navigated these past weeks. True to who we are, no matter where we are, members of our SDSU community are sticking together and providing support for one other during this extraordinary time.

As a beloved member of our SDSU family, know that our Aztec community is strong. As a campus, we recently moved to full virtual adoption of instruction. This was a challenge, and I appreciate all of our faculty and staff members, including instructors, deans and campus administrators, who have stepped up to find creative and innovative ways to continue classes, research and student support services needed to ensure our students can be successful.

COVID-19, in many ways, has posed an unprecedented challenge. And yet, tens of thousands of Aztecs have come together to quickly respond. Our student life and housing teams have worked tirelessly to ensure all of our residential students who could safely return home have done so. Our faculty and instructional technology teams have worked each day to ensure that courses are moved to the virtual space and that student learning continues to thrive. Further, hundreds of staff quickly worked to ensure student life, cultural and community building activities, career counseling, advising, student health, and many other activities and programs remained available to all students, in new and innovative ways. Most impressive was seeing our teams rise to the occasion to work more closely together--despite physical distance--to serve our students above all.

I am also moved by how our Economic Crisis Response Team (ECRT) is supporting students with urgent needs in remarkable ways. ECRT provides our students in need with assistance for housing, food, equipment for virtual learning, and many other items which have been critical to sustaining their success. A recent call for support raised more than \$40,000 from our community in the first week alone. If you would like to join the community of donors who have contributed to this much-needed program, you can make a gift to ECRT online.

Many alumni are also making other positive impacts during this time. They are providing direct support and services in county agencies, hospitals, care facilities and other health-related centers. I know I'm not the only one who is proud of their dedication and generosity during this global crisis. As circumstances allow, you will be hearing more of these alumni and campus response stories. I hope you will be inspired by them, as I am.

Today, let's not forget that, as a community, SDSU has a long history of resilience and courage — meeting challenges head on, remaining calm under pressure and working in concert with the very communities we exist to serve to overcome the toughest of obstacles. I have no doubt that together, with your support and encouragement, we will continue to rise to the occasion.

With appreciation and regard for your health and safety,

Adela de la Torre
SDSU President