We are San Diego State University, a global community of students, faculty, and staff deeply committed to the public good. And our future is bright, as our university is becoming a national model for social mobility and public value, and is accelerating economic and workforce impact. We are an academic and research powerhouse devoted to discovery. We are entering the second year of our strategic plan, which is putting SDSU research on a significant growth trajectory. Researchers are leading projects to develop better batteries for electric cars, reduce disease among the Latinx community, combat climate change, and improve employment opportunities for people with disabilities, and so much more. Support for HSI programs doubled, and we launched several new centers, including the Center for Human Rights. The Big Ideas Initiative is also leveraging our distinctive research strengths for the betterment of the world. And we are combating COVID-19 head on with more than 50 research projects funded by more than $10 million, with projects often in San Diego’s most vulnerable communities. The impact our faculty and staff experts have had on curbing the spread of COVID-19 and increasing vaccine uptake is remarkable. It was also an outstanding year for faculty accomplishments. SDSU engineers Reza Akhavian, Sean Park and Junfei Xie each received the prestigious NSF CAREER award and, overall,
five researchers received NIH's competitive career award.

Also...SDSU continues to expand student support and degree access, to include efforts at SDSU Imperial Valley, SDSU Global Campus and through new microsites with local community colleges. What is now the Department of Women’s Studies -- the first of its kind when it launched in the 70s -- just celebrated its 50-year anniversary.

The School of Public Health, a pillar of San Diego’s health care network -- providing more than 75% of the region’s health care workforce -- celebrated its 40th anniversary.

And donors continue to give at record rates. Last year, $133 million was raised in support of SDSU faculty, staff and students.

We are building for sustainability and for a lasting future. In July, SDSU and Clark Construction Group hosted a ceremony where the final steel beam for Aztec Stadium was put into place. More than 6,000 new jobs will support the project, and stadium construction is on schedule for completion in fall 2022.

We are closer than ever to realizing SDSU Mission Valley, including its Innovation District. With the retail, hotel, and housing, the project is poised to grow SDSU’s already strong economic impact by adding another $3 billion annually to the region.

SDSU Mission Valley buildings will be designed to achieve or exceed LEED Silver. Meanwhile, our newest residential community, Huaxyacac, earned another LEED Gold Certification.

We are a community for all, and we find meaningful opportunities to
honor our diversity and achievements.

We made new investments in our library holdings and special collections, to include an expanded focus on the histories, cultures, and languages of diverse communities. A new partnership with libraries across Oaxaca, Mexico, is preserving and digitizing indigenous texts and language teaching resources from across the centuries.

Just this year, SDSU was recognized both as a First-Gen Forward Advisory Institution and an Age-Friendly University, designations that collectively recognize our commitment to serving individuals throughout one’s lifespan.

And we honored 2020 and 2021 graduates in a first-ever commencement at Petco Park and a CARmencement at SDSU Imperial Valley. These in person events were all the more touching after 14 months of predominantly virtual instruction.

We have much more to celebrate, and our future is bright.

This season, the men's basketball team won its second consecutive outright Mountain West regular-season title and was ranked 16th in the final AP Top 25 poll.

The Aztecs Rock Hunger fundraiser collected nearly 345,000 pounds of food, benefitting a local food bank and an on-campus pantry.

And SDSU alumni are achieving greatness: Destin Daniel Cretton is directing Marvel's Shang-Chi, a Marvel movie; Xander Schauffele won Olympic gold; and County of San Diego Public Health Officer Dr. Wilma Wooten was named San Diegan of the Year.

Looking forward...we will welcome about 35,000 students this fall,
along with nearly 50 new faculty members, a record 20 new academic advisors and 8 new mental health counselors.

And our students are poised for success. SDSU's 6-year graduation rate increased to 79%, with several colleges well exceeding 80% each year. SDSU is on track to fully eliminate many equity gaps by 2025.

Next year, we will celebrate our 125th anniversary -- the same year the football team takes on the University of Arizona Wildcats on September 3, 2022 in the new Aztec Stadium.

Our global SDSU community has and continues to be successful because of our curiosity, our creativity, our courage and our commitment to one another. No matter where we are, we are one.