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PRESS RELEASE

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Marcus Funchess

CSUSB alumnus Marcus Funchess begins role as superintendent of Palm Springs Unified School District

PALM DESERT, Calif. – California State University, San Bernardino (CSUSB) proudly announces that alumnus Marcus Funchess has officially begun his tenure as the new Superintendent of the Palm Springs Unified School District (PSUSD), a milestone that underscores the growing influence of CSUSB alumni across the Coachella Valley.

Funchess received a bachelor of arts degree in sociology from CSUSB in 1996 and credits the university with providing the foundation for his leadership and commitment to advancing educational excellence and equity.

In his new role, Funchess will oversee one of the largest school districts in Riverside County, serving more than 20,000 students across 28 schools. His goals include: implementing a strategic, future-oriented vision that places student success at the forefront; strengthening trust and transparency across the district; ensuring that every scholar and staff member feels safe, supported and valued; championing academic excellence; and closing opportunity gaps.

“Marcus represents the very best of CSUSB — a leader who is deeply committed to making a positive difference,” said Crystal Wymer-Lucero, director of Alumni Relations at CSUSB. “His appointment as superintendent is another example of how CSUSB graduates are shaping the future of the Coachella Valley and beyond.”

Funchess’s leadership adds to a growing list of CSUSB alumni who are driving change and growth in the Coachella Valley, from education and healthcare to business and public service. Thousands of CSUSB graduates live and work in the region, contributing to its economic vitality, cultural richness and community development.

“My purpose is to make a meaningful, positive impact on the lives of others,” said Funchess. “As superintendent, I have the privilege of serving a diverse community of scholars, educators, families and community partners. Together, we create conditions that uplift and empower their brilliance. It’s an extraordinary opportunity and one I’m honored to embrace every day.”

“As a proud alum of CSUSB, my leadership aligns with the mission to support the Palm Springs communities by advocating for equity and social justice through innovative, student-centered practices. The opportunities afforded me by CSUSB opened doors to a future of becoming a leader who develops other difference makers. For that I am grateful,” he said.

As CSUSB continues to expand its partnerships and presence in the Coachella Valley through its Palm Desert Campus, the accomplishments of alumni like Funchess demonstrate the university’s lasting impact in the region.

For more information about CSUSB alumni making a difference in their communities, visit the [CSUSB Alumni Relations website](#).

About the CSUSB Palm Desert Campus: The CSUSB Palm Desert Campus is dedicated to providing a transformative educational experience in the Coachella Valley. With a focus on academic excellence and community engagement, the campus offers undergraduate and graduate degree programs designed to meet the diverse needs of its students and the region.

For more information about the CSUSB Palm Desert Campus, contact Mike Singer in the Office of Marketing and Communications at msinger@csusb.edu or (760) 341-2883, ext. 78107, or visit the PDC website at www.csusb.edu/pdc.