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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Discover the Love and Advocacy of Healing-Centered
Engagement with “The HEAL Project” from the USU**

Northridge- The University Student Union (USU) is here to extend a helping hand to all CSUN at-promise students by providing the most helpful resources with *The Heal Project*. Any student facing a challenge or just needing some support can connect with the HEAL Project Coordinator to access Thursday drop-ins from 1 to 3 p.m. via Zoom. If the regular drop-in hours don't work for you, appointments may be arranged to meet your schedule.

“This program allows us to create a relationship that will provide additional support to students who are experiencing challenges and communities who have experienced trauma from systemic inequities,” said HEAL Project Coordinator, Jessica Aceves. “Our HEAL Project MSW Intern, the student and myself will work together to ensure the student has the necessary tools to thrive here at CSUN.”

Interested students will meet with Jessica Aceves and HEAL Project Master in Social Work (MSW) Intern, who both advocate for student success and work to discover opportunities for students to thrive in college. The collaborative process between the student, HEAL Project Coordinator and support from the MSW intern, will address the barriers and stressors that can impact a student's mental health and academic success. The student will be connected to resources and services that will further support their academic journey.

The HEAL Project does not provide therapy, instead, it creates a relationship that provides welcoming support to students relevant to their academic life. The program is based on a healing-centered engagement (HCE) and a holistic educational approach to working with communities who have faced impacts from systemic inequities. Students who want to connect with *The HEAL Project* can be referred by a USU resource center, including the DREAM Center, Pride Center and Veterans Resource Center, or they can directly contact the project coordinator at Jessica.aceves@csun.edu.

Come meet with the dedicated team at *The HEAL Project*, create a plan just for you and begin thriving in college! *The HEAL Project* is funded by Campus Quality Fee. For additional information, please visit www.csun.edu/usu.

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The University Student Union (USU) is committed to inclusion, diversity and personal growth for all students while providing services such as study areas, a computer lab, TV lounge, prayer room, lactation room and wireless printing kiosks in addition to a variety of food options and a wide range of events. The USU includes the Student Recreation Center, Oasis Wellness Center, Pride Center, Veterans Resource Center, USU Board of Directors, Computer Lab, Games Room, USU Events and more. For additional information, please visit www.csun.edu/usu.