Chico State has been dedicated to creating a diverse campus for 44 years, beginning with the first Upward Bound Project in 1966. But with the desired level of campus diversity yet to be reached, the university will soon take a new and potentially more effective approach.

After being commissioned by President Paul Zingg, the Diversity Scorecard Committee, which aims to bridge the achievement gap for underrepresented students on campus, has created a diversity action plan called “To Form A More Inclusive Learning Community.”

The five-year plan serves as a map for Chico State to achieve its inclusivity and excellence goals and is scheduled to take effect in early October after it receives necessary campus feedback.

Unlike past diversity efforts, the diversity action plan is strategically detailed and includes evaluation measures to ensure that each priority is met.

“When we have an approach determined and implemented where we can mark our progress and hold...
NEW APPROACH TO ENHANCE DIVERSITY CONTINUED

ourselves accountable, then I think we’ll see greater improvement in diversity with regard to population and our diversity efforts,” said Gayle Hutchinson, chair of the Diversity Scorecard Committee.

The committee has specified two priorities for each of the four dimensions of diversity, which serve as a framework for its efforts, Hutchinson said. These four dimensions are access and success, education and scholarship, institutional viability and vitality, and campus climate and intergroup relations.

According to the diversity action plan presented to the Academic Senate April 15, an example of a priority from the access and success dimension is, “Increase the recruitment and enrollment of underrepresented student groups, especially from our service region.” A priority for the education and scholarship dimension is, “Engage and support faculty, staff and student scholarship, creativity, and research on diversity.”

The priorities are each accompanied by specific tasks, evaluation measures and recommendations of who should be in charge of each task, Hutchinson said.

With the wide array of diversity efforts currently taking place on campus, the Diversity Scorecard Committee hopes this plan will bring the entire campus together as a unit working toward common goals, said Chela Patterson, director of the Educational Opportunity Program and member of the Diversity Scorecard Committee.

“There are truly a lot of really good things that are happening on campus in terms of diversity, but a lot of it is not really cohesive or structured strategically,” she said. “We’re hoping with the action plan, it will all kind of come together in a more cohesive effort.”

It’s important to recognize that with the diversity action plan, the term “diversity” does not only pertain to race and ethnicity, but also age, gender, socioeconomic background, culture, ability, disability, religion and sexual orientation, Hutchinson said. This broad definition helps to ensure that the plan is inclusive and reaches out to all student groups, something that both Hutchinson and Patterson think is crucial.

“There’s all these different categories of students where you just hope that they’re not sitting there feeling isolated or that there’s no one else who’s going through their experience,” Patterson said.

One of the greatest challenges of implementing the diversity action plan will be making sure that members of campus, including faculty, recruiters and student organizations, embrace the plan and are dedicated to fulfilling their designated priorities, she said.

“We’re hoping that this action plan is adopted by campus and everyone sees their piece and takes responsibility for it,” Patterson said.

If this does not occur, then the plan will not be nearly as effective, she said.

“We very specifically called it an action plan,” Patterson said. “It’s not a pipe dream, and it’s not a ‘gee, it would benice if…’. It’s a call to action, and we hope that that’s the way it will be taken by the campus.”

For more information on the diversity action plan, visit the Office of Diversity at http://www.csuchico.edu/diversity/index.shtml.

STONEWALL ALLIANCE CENTER CELEBRATES 20 YEARS OF SERVICE TO BUTTE COUNTY

By Jozlynn Rush

The Stonewall Alliance Center in Chico is not your typical community center. In fact, to some members, the Stonewall Alliance Center is like a second home.

After celebrating its 20th anniversary in March, the Stonewall Alliance Center continues to function as the only community center in Butte County for the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex, queer, questioning and ally communities.

Eric Ruben, chairperson for the Stonewall Alliance Center, said the center provides the community with information, advocacy, referrals and support. It strives to unite and strengthen individuals and the community through coordination of community events, activities and discussions.

“When we were founded 20 years ago, we were just trying to create a safe and accepting place in Chico for the LGBT community,” he said. “Twenty years later, what we’re about now is creating an accepting environment everywhere.”

The 20th anniversary event was held March 6 and attracted 180 guests from around the world. Guests from England, Los Angeles, Sacramento and San Francisco came to Chico to celebrate the anniversary and reunite with old friends.

Another special guest in attendance was Chico Mayor Ann Schab. Schwab not only attended the event but also presented the Stonewall Alliance Center with a proclamation for its 20 years of service to the community.

Past and present board members spoke on behalf of the center, a slide show of pictures illustrated the past 20 years of service, a live auction raised $3,000 for

Stonewall Community volunteers Allan Hernandez and Will Dobson embrace Tom Kelem, treasurer of Stonewall Alliance Center at the 20th anniversary.
Bridges

the center, and board members honored loyal members, donors and supporters of the center in an award ceremony.

“The event itself was very successful and very positive,” Ruben said. “People had a great time and that’s what matters.”

Although he thought the event was a great success, he had hoped for a stronger young adult presence at the event, Ruben said.

The Stonewall Alliance Center has a program called SAY, an acronym for Stonewall Alliance Youth, that is specifically aimed at providing a safe space for LGBT youth and their allies in Butte County.

The program is divided into two groups: SAY Twenties and SAY Teens. Each group meets weekly and the groups also attend various events and activities together throughout the year.

Joe Rogers, SAY’s first elected president and a current LGBT sensitivity trainer at the Stonewall Alliance Center, was a part of SAY for six years and said he enjoyed his experience.

“Being gay and knowing that at 14, I sought out SAY as a place to meet other gay and lesbian teens in a safe environment,” he said. “By and large, my experience in SAY was a very positive one, and I would recommend the program to any young adult.”

The Stonewall Alliance Center also works with organizations on Chico State’s campus, including A.S. Pride and Safe Zone, the A.S. Women’s Center and the Office of Diversity.

“We recently did faculty and staff training at the university concerning cultural competency and gay sensitivity,” Ruben said. “The university also comes to us to recruit guest speakers to participate in panels at the university regarding LGBT issues.”

Chico State professor Lyndall Ellingson, a professor in the health and community services department, uses the Stonewall Alliance Center often to recruit guest speakers for her human sexuality, multicultural health and sexuality education lectures.

“They’re great,” she said. “They have a lot of information, they’re very generous, and they offer a diverse set of services you can’t find anywhere else.”

The Stonewall Alliance Center also puts on discussions and events of its own. These events and discussions are held weekly and can be found on the calendar on the center’s website. Three major events being planned are a festival in August, Hot Summer Feast in early summer and the second annual Coming Out for Art show in October.

“We want to be more visible to the community,” Ruben said. “That’s why we’re doing more outreach, events, training and education in the schools so that more and more people are exposed to someone who is LGBT.”

Looking toward the future, the Stonewall Alliance Center plans to move into downtown Chico to better serve the community.

The atmosphere and location downtown will allow the center to educate more people and reach out to a different group of individuals, Ruben said.

“We’re one of the smaller communities to actually support a community center like this,” he said. “And having done so for 20 years uninterrupted is some feat, and it says a lot about the strength of the Chico community.”

To learn more about the Stonewall Alliance Center and its mission of creating an accepting and inclusive environment for the LGBTIQQA communities, visit www.stonewallchico.org.
BRIANNA ELLIS, 22, was “lost in the shuffle” of San Diego State at the end of her freshman year when she made the right decision to return home to Chico.

Growing up in Chico, Ellis initially did not like the idea of running into family friends every day on Chico State's relatively small campus.

“It was a weird adjustment being on campus,” Ellis said. “There were times that I would have preferred to be anonymous than be who I am because I know so many of the administrators.”

Ellis planned to stay a year before moving on but soon realized that attending Chico State was not what she had imagined.

“Initially, I thought I wanted that big-school environment, but coming here I realized I wanted something completely different,” Ellis said.

The small community atmosphere, which she originally wanted to avoid, has helped Ellis with her education.

“Chico State allows you to get to know your professors because you have small class sizes, and people are a little bit more warm,” she said.

After working for the corporation side of Associated Students for a year and a half, Ellis decided to get more involved. She is currently the A.S. vice president of facilities and services, where she works alongside family friends.

After she receives her degree this May in social science, Ellis plans to attend graduate school, she said.

CHRISTIAN GARCIA, 22, had a hard time finding a place to fit in and excel at Chico State until he found Nu Alpha Kappa Fraternity Inc. while visiting a friend at UC Davis. Garcia met the people who would ultimately help him find his place at Chico State.

“I found the correct atmosphere through Nu Alpha Kappa,” Garcia said.

In the three years since Garcia joined the Greek community, he’s become the president of the Multicultural Greek Council and helped start a trilateral Greek council with MGC, Panhellenic Council and InterFraternity Council.

All of Garcia’s activities, including his bid last year for Associated Students president, have centered on creating a collective culture at Chico State.

“I think that’s what Chico State really lacks as an overall student body,” Garcia said.

Though he has seen progress, Garcia doesn’t want to be overly confident in his successes with Chico State Greek organizations, he said.

“I don’t think I’m at that level where I can say that I’ve accomplished so much that I’m proud of it,” he said. “The way I see it is: I’m trying, and I’m seeing results, and I’m seeing support.”

Garcia will continue to work toward unity after graduation. He has applied to be a part of the Assembly Fellowship Program through Sacramento State, which puts students to work in capitol offices, and would one day like to use his experience at Chico State to go into public service.

CHRISTINE VEST, 22, doesn’t buy into the notion that you can only be one thing. In her world, aesthetics and reality blend just fine.

After leaving her hometown of Winnetka, Calif. to attend Chico State on a full basketball scholarship, Vest's initial fears of being away from home faded away into a life of basketball and music.

“It was so distant from everything that I loved and was used to, so freshman year was probably the hardest year,” Vest said.

While basketball has been a large part of Vest’s life at Chico State, it doesn’t solely define her. She is also a communication design major with musical talent that has been noticed by all who know her.

“Every summer when I go home for the past two years, I’ve been working on music,” she said.

Along with playing the guitar and writing music, Vest has demonstrated a strong vocal talent on her Facebook page and at three basketball games where she sang the national anthem.

Vest is planning to move home after graduating this month to spend the summer writing music while looking for a job involving children or media arts.

Until then, she is enjoying the free time she has gained since the end of basketball season.

“It’s kind of weird not having practice, but I’m actually kind of enjoying having my own life,” Vest said.

By Joanna Eisenberg
The 300 student veterans on campus do not stand out physically, but the maturity level and emotional bonds with their military experiences make this population stand out in terms of their academic needs.

To assist this segment of the student population, The Veteran Education Support Team was formed with about 20 campus services and four off-campus services. The support team includes Disability Support Services, the Wellness Center, the Student Health Center, the Student Veteran Organization, the Career Center and the Student Learning Center with the offices of admissions, academic advising, financial aid, veterans affairs and diversity.

“VEST is really unique because it’s kind of a bridge between the faculty, community and the veteran group,” said John Hart, president of the Student Veteran Organization.

Forming this bridge will address student veterans’ educational and social needs, which are sometimes difficult for other campus groups to understand.

“Veterans tend to associate with other veterans because there is a trust and there is a secure feeling with other vets,” said Larry Langwell, coordinator of the Veterans Affairs Office.

Most veterans attending the university are older than the majority of students with an average age of 27, Langwell said. Many are transfer students who may look and act like the typical Chico State student but have already done a lot of the growing up most students do while away at school. Some experience difficulties that emerge when transferring from military life to student life.

“The whole matter of a free-thinking society is foreign after several years of not challenging authority,” Langwell said.

VEST was created at Chico State after Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger put out the Troops to College initiative, Langwell said. The initiative was supported by CSU Chancellor Charles Reed and was meant to encourage campuses to become more accessible to veterans by educating them on educational opportunities on California campuses.

Without a budget, VEST focuses on communication between departments and services to help student veterans achieve the things they need, including the recently opened Center for Veteran Education and Transition Services, Langwell said. VEST is also committed to helping student veterans overcome any

DID YOU KNOW?

1. There are about 300 student veterans on campus and another 300 students who receive military benefits through a family member.

2. Chico State is one of 236 chapters of Student Veterans of America.

3. The Chico State Veterans Affairs Office is responsible for certifying student enrollment for the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

4. Veterans receive funding for college through the GI Bill, which was dramatically changed after 9/11.

5. VEST helped open the Center for Veteran Education and Transition Services during spring break.

6. San Diego State has one of the largest student veteran populations in California.
obstacles that might prevent them from getting an education.
Langwell appreciates VEST’s efforts because of his own experience trying to go to school, he said. After almost six years in the Air Force during the 1980s, Langwell had a difficult time figuring out what to do with his post-military life.
“I decided to go to school after a couple years of trying to make ends meet without an education, with a full-time family,” he said.
For the 14 years since he graduated from Chico State, Langwell has been the VAO coordinator, he said. During the past 10 years of this time, Chico State has worked hard to update important information for student veterans and make this information easily accessible. VEST is helping reach this goal by providing a place for different offices to focus on the specific needs of student veterans.
For more information on VEST and its services, visit the Office of Veterans Affairs at em.csuchico.edu/veterans, or the Student Veteran Organization at http://www.csuchico.edu/veterans.

GOLD MEDALIST SPEAKS AT CHICO STATE
By Jozlynn Rush

It’s not every day that Chico State has an Olympic gold medalist speaking on its campus. But on April 7, thanks to MESA Engineering Program, the Chico Student Success Center and the Office of Diversity, the university had the privilege of hosting Billy Mills.

Mills spoke at Chico State to an audience of more than 100 guests about the risks of perpetuating stereotypes and developing perceptions about people or ethnic groups. As a Native American, specifically an Oglala Lakota, Mills has experienced his share of stereotyping and racism.

Paul Villegas, director of MESA, recruited Mills to speak at Chico State because of the Olympian’s passion for diversity and his goal to inspire American Indian youth and encourage dignity, character and pride through their heritage.

“Billy has a great story to tell,” Villegas said. “He’s overcome a lot of obstacles to get where he’s at, and he really cares about inspiring athletes and inspiring our youth to find their dream and go for it.”
Mills, the second Native American ever to win an Olympic medal, won the 10,000-meter run at the 1964 Tokyo Olympics. He is also the only American to win a gold medal in that particular race.
“What I took from the Olympic Games wasn’t winning an Olympic gold medal,” Mills said. “I took from it an understanding of global unity through dignity of character and pride of global diversity.”
He surprised the world when he came from behind to win the gold medal in the 10,000-meter run. At the time, Mills set a world record of 28 minutes, 24.4 seconds, which was almost 50 seconds faster than his previous best time. He was later inducted into the United States Track and Field Hall of Fame in 1976 and the United States Olympic Hall of Fame in 1984.
Mills began running at a young age. He received an athletic scholarship to the University of Kansas where he continued to excel at long-distance running. He was named an NCAA All-America cross country runner three times and later graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in physical education.
“I wanted to be an athlete,” he said. “I was attracted to running because of the feeling of freedom and tranquility I felt when I ran.”
After college, Mills joined the U.S. Marine Corps as a lieutenant. He then began a career with the U.S. Department of the Interior, became a successful life insurance salesman and eventually became a professional speaker.
“I felt I had been given a gift by our creator,” he said. “So what do you do when you think you’ve been given a gift from a higher power? You try to give back.”
Mills decided to give back by speaking professionally. At 71 years old, he visits American Indian communities throughout the U.S. and speaks to American Indian youth about leading healthy lifestyles and taking pride in their heritage.
“A lot of people say I give a wonderful motivational speech,” he said. “But I don’t like the word motivational. I like to think I give an empowerment presentation.”
In addition to being a professional speaker, Mills is also an accomplished author. In 1990, Mills and Nicholas Sparks co-wrote the book “Wokini: A Lakota Journey to Happiness and Self-Understanding.” He was also the inspiration for the 1983 film Running Brave starring Robby Benson.
Mills is also the national spokesman for Running Strong for American Indian Youth, a nonprofit organization that helps communities through self-sufficiency programs, youth activities and cultural identity projects.
Mills has no intention of slowing down. He plans to continue to speak professionally to audiences around the U.S., maintain his position as the national spokesman for Running Strong for American Indian Youth and spend time with his wife of 48 years, his four daughters and his 11 grandchildren.
“I don’t think of myself as the second Native American to have won a gold medal,” he said. “When I watch my Olympic-winning race, I don’t see Billy. I don’t see myself. I see any person trying to achieve a dream.”
Bridges

The Chico Student Success Center was acknowledged with a CollegeKeys Compact Innovation Award for its work with low-income students by the College Board Feb. 28 at the 2010 Western Regional Forum in La Jolla, Calif.

“We’re being recognized as something extremely unique; as a university that cares very much for their students,” said Gary McMahon, director of the Student Success Center at Chico State.

For 12 years, the Student Success Center has provided students from low-income backgrounds with resources needed to become successful, not only as college students but in their professional and personal lives as well.

Many of the students are first-generation college students who initially may not know what is expected at a university such as Chico State, McMahon said.

Students visit the center for everything from academic advising and support to a quiet place to focus on their studies.

“I like having a place outside of the library where I can go and work on school assignments,” said Luz Barboza, a senior majoring in political science. “It’s also great for finding and using different campus resources.”

Even though Barboza has only been visiting the center for about two months, it has definitely helped her improve as a student, she said.

Currently serving about 300 low-income Chico State students, the Student Success Center focuses on four main areas of student success and development: academic success, personal values, community service and career preparation. While it considers each of these four areas crucial in shaping well-rounded individuals, the center places an emphasis on academics.

“Although it’s a social place, it’s a place that we have a seriousness about being successful academically,” McMahon said. “That actually creates a peer atmosphere that’s centered on being successful.”

Students will check on each other to make sure they are all putting their best efforts forth, which creates a sense of camaraderie within the center, he said.

The center provides various resources to enhance the peer atmosphere for students. A collaboration room is available for students to work on group projects or aid study groups. Students can take a break from their studies and have a snack in a small kitchen in the office. A computer lab is also available for students to use for their schoolwork.

“Schoolwork first, Facebook second, MySpace last,” McMahon joked. “When you’re on those machines, you better be doing schoolwork, especially when there are students who want to use them behind you.”

The Student Success Center employs student assistants to run the front desk, providing them with a source of income and valuable work experience. This is consistent with its emphasis on creating a place that is specifically for students and creating success in their lives.

The center relies heavily on its recruitment efforts and partners with about 35 high schools throughout California. It speaks to about 1,500 high school students each year to prepare them for college life and what is expected at Chico State.

“The message that we’re giving our prospective students has to set up the foundation for future success when they get here,” McMahon said. “I’m not just going to try to get them here and then go on to the next student. I want them to be successful.”

Leslie Calzada and Amul Khan use the Chico Student Success Center’s quiet study area to complete their schoolwork. The center also houses a computer lab and collaboration room for student use.

STUDENT SUCCESS CENTER FULFILLS ITS NAME
By Kaylie Boden
GRADUATE STUDENT TRAINS TO COMPETE IN THE MISS BLACK USA PAGEANT

By Jozlynn Rush

Most students at Chico State have never worn a crown. Tara Sanders, a 25-year-old graduate student and advisor at the university, has worn six.

These crowns aren’t your everyday birthday or dress-up crowns. They are crowns Sanders has won in six different beauty and scholarship pageants during the last 15 years.

The most recent pageant she participated in was the Miss Black California USA pageant, where she won the title competing against 23 talented women.

“For me, winning the crown and being Miss Black California is more than just a title,” Sanders said. “It means that I get to be something to little girls. It’s an opportunity to show women of all ages what is really possible when you look for the opportunities.”

Although she was crowned Miss Black California in November, Sanders is training once again to compete in the national pageant in August to become the next Miss Black USA.

In addition to training and fundraising for the national pageant, Sanders is also busy pursuing her master’s degree in social science and being an advisor for Chico State's Educational Opportunity Program, a successful CSU initiative that assists low-income, first-generation college students. She is also a member of the Black Faculty and Staff Association and is the advisor for Feet of Nature, a women’s organization on campus that specializes in step dance performances.

“I’ve been doing all this, and I still got a 3.9 GPA,” Sanders said. “People think it’s impossible, but if you make academic achievement a priority, the treasures that can follow are just amazing.”

Sanders is also beginning to fulfill her commitments as Miss Black California, a responsibility she does not take lightly.

She has already had numerous speaking engagements encouraging heart disease awareness, combating obesity and promoting sustainability. She has also had the privilege of honoring women in California for their own academic achievements, something Sanders said she feels very passionate about.

“I like the Miss Black California USA pageant so much because part of their mission is to showcase the talents of young black women and their academic achievements,” she said.

With all of the negative stereotypes surrounding pageants, Sanders said she also hopes to have the opportunity to change people’s opinions about race-specific pageants, such as the Miss Black USA.

“Some people might consider pageants like these as reverse racism or that society is perpetuating racism by having pageants like these,” she said. “But what many people do not know is that ethnic women weren’t allowed in most pageants until the 1960s and 1970s. We weren’t allowed to compete, and so we had to create our own pageants in order to be able to have the opportunity to showcase our talents and academic achievements.”

Having won six of the eight beauty and scholarship pageants she’s entered, Sanders has won titles such as Miss Teen All America San Diego and Miss Teen Southern California.

Sanders’ pageant coach, Craig James, said he knows Sanders has had so much success throughout her life because of the woman she is.

“She’s a very polished woman,” he said. “I think a lot of times women enter pageants and don’t know what they’re doing academically or on stage, and she definitely knows what she’s doing academically and in her pageant career.”

Sanders made history in 2002 when she competed against 253 other girls to be crowned Miss Teenage California, becoming the second African-American winner in the pageant’s 23-year history.

A few months later, she was crowned Miss Teen of the Nation, becoming the first African-American winner in 17 years. Sanders’ father, C.C. Sanders, said he knows that his daughter can achieve anything she sets her mind to.

“She doesn’t know much about losing,” C.C. said. “In fact, she knows nothing about it. Over the years I’ve come to realize that when my daughter tells me she’s going to do something, she’s going to do it and do it well.”

Sanders is looking forward to the coming months and is optimistic about her future, she said. After receiving her master’s degree, she plans to pursue a doctorate in higher education and will continue her work as an EOP advisor at Chico State. She also plans to become a goodwill ambassador and an advocate for women and education.

With the annual Miss Black USA pageant approaching in August, Sanders hopes to win her seventh title but more importantly spread her message, she said.

“I think if I can accomplish one goal through doing these pageants, it would be to show California and the rest of the world this is what a black woman looks like, and this is what we’re doing, and this is what we’re capable of,” she said. “And if I can be a role model for all women and promote academic achievement, I think I will have accomplished something greater than I could have hoped for.”
When Lee Mun Wah was born in Oakland, Calif., this was not the name that was put on his birth certificate. Instead, his father put “Gary Lee” in hopes of protecting his son from the racism that could occur for having a traditional Chinese name.

For 25 years, Lee has been dedicated to promoting the need to value others for their differences so people no longer feel the need to sacrifice their heritage and culture to live in this country.

Lee visited Chico State April 13 as a master diversity and communications trainer and the founder and executive director of StirFry Seminars & Consulting to conduct two workshops.

The first was for faculty and staff and focused on recognizing the ways in which racism is present in individuals’ attitudes and behaviors in a school environment.

The second workshop was held for students and focused on the challenges and opportunities that exist when interactions occur between different race and gender groups.

“I think change will only occur when we begin to take a look at ourselves and not just celebrate our differences, but actually practice, embrace and put these differences to use,” he said. “We need to really talk about how beautiful our differences are, rather than just our commonalities.”

Following the workshops was a showing of Lee’s most acclaimed film, *The Color of Fear*, which documents eight North American men of Asian, European, Latino and African descent as they discuss racism in America and its impact on their lives. The day ended with a discussion of the film and the racial issues it depicted.

Of the Chico State students who attended that evening, Jessie Kodai, 19, found the film particularly powerful.

“I think it could be life changing for people to see,” she said. “It’s a good message that needs to get out.”

*The Color of Fear* has now been seen by 30 million viewers worldwide and was recognized by Oprah Winfrey in a 1995 one-hour special on the life of Lee and the impact of the film.

Lee is currently working on his seventh film, *If These Halls Could Talk*, which focuses on college students facing diversity issues on campus and will feature students from both Chico State and Butte College. Filming will begin this summer at a site in Northern California, where students will spend three days interacting with other participants and engaging in small and large group discussions about these issues.

Lee’s diversity efforts began in 1985 after his mother was murdered by an African-American man. Rather than turning to hatred or anger, he decided to dedicate himself to helping diverse cultures and ethnicities gain a deeper appreciation for their differences and a deeper understanding of what produces hatred between them.

One year later, after realizing that most diversity training companies were not addressing key issues surrounding racism, such as pain, anger and hurt, Lee founded StirFry Seminars & Consulting, which works with corporations, government agencies, social service agencies and educational institutions to facilitate discussions on diversity issues through its trainings and seminars, according to the company’s website. He wanted to take a more interactive approach where people can express their feelings and participate in activities and exercises regarding diversity issues.

“I felt like the diversity training that I was seeing involved some great exercises, but I didn’t necessarily feel like it moved the heart enough to want to change,” Lee said.

While traveling around the country to speak to different groups of people is rewarding for Lee, he also finds it to be “double-edged.”

“I think it’s wonderful to be able to meet so many people and to realize how many stories they have and what in their lives is going on in terms of diversity issues,” he said. “But I think the negative side is realizing just how much this issue is still facing our country.”

While Lee’s efforts have inspired many to actively combat racism and diversity issues, the majority of our country’s people still need to step outside their own world in order to truly acknowledge and appreciate the differences of others, he said.

“Until we widen our lens, open our hearts and look around, we will all keep thinking the world is just the way we see it from our own eyes,” he said.
Bridges

RETIRING CHICO STATE PROFESSORS

Susan Place

Elizabeth Renfro

Thank you for your dedication and commitment to our campus' diversity efforts. You will be missed.

2010 Conversations on Diversity Winners:
The Conversations on Diversity series focuses on the complexities of group and individual identities and how they influence one another. This year's Conversations on Diversity series explored sources and responses to the hate and fear around and within us. These campus and community members exemplified the power of diversity in our community.

Walk the Line Award
Sara Cooper

Lifetime Achievement Award
Professor Kurt Nordstrom

Behind the Scenes Award
Mimi Bommersbach

Pulling us Together Award
Black Leaders on Campus

Taking it to the Streets
Dwight Frey

After Chico Award
Jackey Humphrey-Straub

Teaching Back Award
Mari DeLa Cerda

Taking it to the Classroom
Art Sanchez

Promising New Comer Award
Maurice Bryan

Enhancement of Multicultural Understanding Award:
This university award is granted to an individual student or recognized student organization that has significantly contributed to the development of a positive multicultural environment at Chico State.

La Asociacion de Teatro y Poesia

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