Professor David Lantis was a faculty member in the Department of Geography who understood that private giving would help to enrich the teaching and learning environment of the University. Professor Lantis and his wife, Helen, donated $2.1 million to endow a university chair in their name, which allows for the annual funding of two university chairs. David and Helen Lantis’ vision stipulated that support from the endowment “shall be for use anywhere within the California State University, Chico with no particular academic designation.”

Recipients of these awards will carry the distinct title of Lantis Professors, honoring the memory and generosity of David and Helen and also fulfilling the values of our institution, advancing its distinction, and enhancing student learning and success. Past recipients of the Lantis University Chair are David Colson, Michelle Neyman Morris, Stephen Lewis, Greg Kallio, Tracy Butts, Kate Transchel, Lori Beth Way, Byron Wolfe, Rachel Teasdale, Georgia Fox, Michael Ennis, and Susan Roll.

CSU, Chico celebrates the model of the teacher-scholar as exemplified by David Lantis, and we look for ways to reward exceptional faculty and assist them in advancing their scholarly and creative careers. Although faculty at all stages of their profession will be considered for these professorships supported by the Lantis University Chairs, we would like to encourage those who are mid-career and who have completed a major project or body of work that they are seeking to advance to the next stage, with a new project or one that builds on its predecessor. The awards recognize public scholars serving the institution and broader community.

The awards are $40,000 each, which can be spent on release time, travel, laboratory equipment, or a summer salary. Proposals are due March 24, 2017. The award period will begin July 1, 2017, and continue for a minimum of 12 months but no longer than 36 months from the time of the award.

In keeping with the public scholar model, Lantis University Professors will be expected to make a public presentation, conduct a public performance, or present a public exhibition on a topic relevant to their selection. Lantis University Professors may also be asked to attend and participate in programs sponsored by the University Foundation, the Office of the President, or the Office of the Provost. Upon completion of their project, Lantis University Professors will give a presentation to the University Foundation Board of Governors.

Each application should contain the following information:

1. A brief (two-page) description of the project that is to be completed or initiated during the award period. The description should clearly define the goals of the project and its significance to the applicant’s career, teaching, and discipline, as well as its significance to the prestige of the University.
2. An indication of how the award allows the applicant to contribute to the implementation of the University’s Strategic Plan for the Future (no more than one page).
3. A budget indicating how the $40,000 would be spent.
4. A timeline for completion of the project.
5. An endorsement from the applicant’s department chair and dean, explaining how the award will enhance the applicant’s scholarly or creative career and how the project relates to the implementation of the Strategic Plan for the Future.
6. A current curriculum vitae must accompany the application.
All applications and accompanying materials, e.g. letters of endorsement and a curriculum vitae, should be submitted electronically to FacultyAffairs@csuchico.edu, no later than 5 pm March 24, 2017. Successful applicants will be notified by April 21, 2017.