



**THE CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY**  
OFFICE OF THE CHANCELLOR

BAKERSFIELD

February 2011

CHANNEL ISLANDS

Open Letter to the CSU Chico Community:

CHICO

During the fall 2010 term the California State University conducted the first six-year review of Paul J. Zingg, president of California State University, Chico. The review concluded on January 25, 2011 with a discussion of the review by the CSU Board of Trustees. The Board of Trustees and I appreciate the contributions of those who worked with us on this review.

DOMINGUEZ HILLS

EAST BAY

FRESNO

FULLERTON

The Board of Trustees' criteria for assessing the performance of a president and of the institution include the overall management of the institution, relations on campus and within the system, educational leadership, community relations, major achievements of the campus and the president, and personal characteristics of the president. Faculty, staff, students, alumni, and community representatives were invited to submit written comments responding to the trustees' criteria. Additionally, a four-person external review team conducted a campus visit and interviewed members of the campus community.

HUMBOLDT

LONG BEACH

LOS ANGELES

MARITIME ACADEMY

MONTEREY BAY

A primary accomplishment from Dr. Zingg's first six years was receiving a 10-year accreditation from WASC with no special monitoring required – the first campus to receive this certification under the 2001 standards. Other highlights include the completion of the Wildcat Recreation Center, the Student Services Center (with LEED Gold certification), the Gateway Natural History Museum (with LEED Silver certification), and Sutter Hall; the comprehensive review and redesign of General Education requirements; the creation of innovative programs such as Concrete Industry Management to respond to industry needs; and, the creation of comprehensive programs to address issues such as hazing, alcohol, and racial incidents on campus.

NORTHRIDGE

POMONA

SACRAMENTO

SAN BERNARDINO

SAN DIEGO

Dr. Zingg earned widespread praise for his overall management of the campus, particularly in light of the recent budget difficulties, and for developing a campus strategic plan. This enabled him to work constructively with faculty on the crucial issues of program and teaching quality, including elements such as improving student retention and time to degree, and promoting diversity in the instructional and staff ranks and in student recruitment. One respondent observed, "He has managed the current financial stringency in a way that, against considerable odds, has preserved nearly every component of the university's curricular and co-curricular offerings, while demonstrating genuine sensitivity to the increased stress that the current situation has created for faculty, staff, and students."

SAN FRANCISCO

SAN JOSÉ

SAN LUIS OBISPO

SAN MARCOS

SONOMA

STANISLAUS

Additionally, respondents reported that Dr. Zingg has made a definite and positive impact upon the students, setting high standards for academic performance. He has turned the image of a “party school” with unfortunate behavior and actions into an educationally oriented learning environment.

As for the campus’s interactions with the community, President Zingg has made a conscious effort to re-focus the perimeter facilities of the university to look “outward” toward the town. This effort has sent the message to the external community that “we at the university are a part of the community.” Along with other equally strong and supportive messages, this effort has significantly improved the working relationships between the campus and the city of Chico.

Dr. Zingg is an active participant in community groups and expects his principal staff to be involved with counterpart groups. Respondents praised him for such efforts as the North State Bus Tour, which garnered support from local communities, and for educational partnerships from Tulelake near the Oregon border, all the way south to the Coachella Valley.

Given the demographics of the North California service area, it has been difficult to achieve the level of diversity among the student population Dr. Zingg has sought, even though the university has pursued significant recruitment efforts elsewhere in the state, notably in Southern California and in the Bay Area. Dr. Zingg acknowledges that this is an area in need of ongoing attention and improvement.

On a personal level, Dr. Zingg is an impressive individual. Respondents called him open and friendly, people-oriented, approachable; and described him as having an unwavering commitment to CSU Chico. When summing up his work on campus, one respondent wrote, “The social, economic, and political environments in which the president of a public university in California today must operate are almost unimaginably complex. To watch Paul adroitly negotiate the hazards that arise at every turn is to marvel that it can be done at all. We are extraordinarily fortunate to have him as our president...Chico State would enjoy neither its current stability nor its promising future without the years of service he has given the institution and the region.”

Dr. Zingg and I discussed this review and established the following goals:

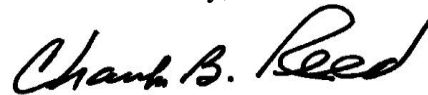
1. Continue to focus on campus diversity and student outreach;
2. Work to increase student retention and graduation rates;
3. Focus attention on transfer rates from two-year campuses, particularly in the Los Angeles and San Francisco Bay areas, to identify and recruit minority students for Chico;

4. Continue to pursue and expand positive relationships with the community;
5. Continue to work with the local community and business owners to reduce the illegal use of alcohol in dormitories and in apartments around campus;
6. Direct more time and attention to the upcoming capital campaign.

Dr. Paul Zingg is deeply committed to the success of California State University, Chico and its students, staff, and faculty. He is an engaged, focused, and very capable president for the university, and he has widespread support across campus. He has successfully led the university by preserving access, and by creating programs and offerings that are respected and appreciated throughout the greater Northern California region. We congratulate Dr. Zingg on a successful first six years as president, and we look forward to the future growth and accomplishments of the university.

With kind regards,

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Charles B. Reed". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent "C" at the beginning.

Charles B. Reed  
Chancellor

CBR/jpf