



Statement from the President

Thank you for visiting this new CSU, Chico Web site. Its purpose is to gather information in one location about CSU, Chico programs and activities related to diversity.

"Diversity" is a difficult and sometimes contentious word to define. For me – and for many of the people featured on this Web site – diversity means the richness of differences among people based on culture, ethnicity, race, gender, religion, and sexual orientation.

Since coming to CSU, Chico in February 2004, I have been delighted to discover the diversity-related efforts taking place at the University. The phrase "Access and Excellence" used on the diversity Web site accurately describes the focus of our outstanding outreach and support programs, various clubs and organizations, and other activities. I hope this site will become a "one-stop shop" for people to find out what is going on, whether it's information about Upward Bound or the date of the annual Multicultural Night.

At the same time, CSU, Chico has much work to do in the area of diversity. For instance, our students, faculty, staff, and administration are not as diverse as those at most of our sister campuses, and do not match the growing diversity in the state of California. (Demographic statistics are available on the page titled "News and Information.")

We will be setting ambitious goals to add diversity to our campus community, and to do more to engage each other in the challenging work of increasing awareness of, and respect for, diversity. While this is critically important to me personally, it will be a shared enterprise. A "diversity agenda" is an agenda for the entire University and one of our measures of quality and distinction.

The main title of this Web site states, "Chico Values Diversity." While I believe this deeply, to the extent that our diversity work is ongoing and far from done, it is also forward-thinking. I and many others on campus look forward to the day that diversity is recognized widely as one of CSU, Chico's greatest strengths.

Please let me know what you think about this Web site. I look forward to hearing from you.

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