

**Chico State Enterprises (CSE) Update**  
**From Mary Sidney, Chief Executive Officer, Chico State Enterprises**  
**Sent to All Announce by Lori Fuentes on behalf of Academic Affairs**  
**Thursday, December 11, 2019**

For those of you whom I have not yet had the opportunity to meet, I am the new CEO of Chico State Enterprises (CSE) as of October 1, 2019. I have learned much about the organization, its programs, and the campus community. I am, however, mindful of significant and recent organizational and personnel changes that have occurred within CSE administrative operations, including the merger of the former Research and Sponsored Programs (RESP) and the Research Foundation (RF).

Given these important and recent changes, I want to apprise you of efforts underway within CSE that are focused on improving how we do business and how we provide support to your programs, projects, and accounts. Specifically, current operational priorities are to:

- Refine our organizational structure to better align roles and responsibilities;
- Increase communications and updates to the campus community;
- Identify, streamline, and/or eliminate duplicate or overlapping processes;
- Address process deficiencies;
- Strengthen gift and endowment administrative services;
- Review, consolidate, and clarify policies from the two former organizations of RESP and RF to establish a single set of updated policies for CSE;
- Refine the recent design and implementation of our financial system (OneSolution) and hold user training sessions;
- Prepare for the acquisition, design, and implementation of new proposal development software; and,
- Gradually improve overall process flow, response time, and services to you!

As we make progress toward these goals, I look forward to future communications with you—as well as feedback from you—about CSE operations. For now, we are immersed in the arduous process of creating an organization that will provide a high-level of operational and service excellence. I thank you in advance for your patience and support during this work.

In the longer-term, I will be working closely with the campus to further the success of the faculty and staff through grants and sponsored programs. Provost Larson has proposed, to the Executive Committee of the Academic Senate, the idea of an Academic Senate stakeholder advisory committee to the CSE. The two committees of IRB are actively engaged in important work. IRB questions and requests for assistance may be directed to Ms. Sharon Cain at 530-898-3145 or [irb@csuchico.edu](mailto:irb@csuchico.edu). Provost Larson continues to serve as Chico State's institutional officer for integrity and ethics.

I will continue to keep you apprised as we consolidate/revise/update CSE policies or processes. In a separate communication, I will be providing information regarding a recent and major policy change recently announced by the Chancellor's Office pertaining to the use of independent contractors.

The CSE Board of Directors conducts the business of the CSE. Their meetings are open to the public and you can find current and past information about these meetings on the Chico State Enterprises [Board of Directors website](#). Please know, however, that there is a lag in the posting of meeting minutes. Previous meeting minutes are posted after they are finalized and approved at subsequent Board meetings – which occurs every three to four months.

I am excited about the considerable opportunities for increased efficiency and improved services in administration of the full range of CSE programs and activities. I am encouraged and grateful that we have an excellent and dedicated management team and staff within CSE who are pulling together and working collaboratively to address the challenges of re-vamping processes and work flows with the goal of optimizing the combined operations. Chico State has great potential. CSE's job is to nurture the passion and creativity of the faculty and staff who are engaged in entrepreneurial and sponsored projects through excellent service. I appreciate your partnership as we move the organization forward and help position CSE and the campus for significant growth of Chico State's research and service portfolio.

**Mary Sidney**

Chief Executive Officer  
25 Main Street, Suite 203  
Chico, CA 95928