

Wildcat Welcome- College of ECC

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SPEAKERS

Clarke Steinback (CAGD), Tyson Henry (CSCI), Chris Souder (CMGT), Kathleen Meehan (EECE), Greg Watkins (MMEM), Blake Wentz, Amanda Muller (CIMT), Steffen Mehl (CIVL), Jennifer McKee (ESSC) and Feraidon Ataie (CIMT)

Jennifer McKee- ESSC 14:58

All right, I'll give it just another minute. don't want to go too far since we've got a lot to cover. But just want to looks like we still have some attendees attendings joining us want to make sure all of our panelists are here. Sweet. I think we've got everybody and panelists if you have any issues. Sema is my right hand woman for this, as well as she'll be monitoring the q&a. I think we're going to go ahead and kick it off and get started. So first of all, I just want to welcome you to the session. I really appreciate you taking the time to join us. Of course it says my connection to internet is unstable, right the second but I want to first kick it off with a wonderful welcome from our dean. We are super excited to have him on board. He's going to be a fantastic addition to this college. So Dean Blake Wentz Feel free to take it away from here.

Blake Wentz- Dean- College of Engineering, Computer Science, & Construction Management

15:58

All right, thanks, Jennifer. Hi, everybody. My name is Dr. Blake Wentz. I'm the new dean of the College of Engineering, Computer Science, & Construction Management and it's my honor to welcome you all to Chico State. I'm all just like you. It's also my first day so I have those first day jitters. But what I want to talk to you about briefly before you get to hear from our students, support services and all the different departments is I want to talk to you a little bit about our expectations, and what you can expect out of your your time here at Chico State. I know this isn't the way you wanted to start your college career with the pandemic. I doubt you envisioned when you signed up for college that you'd be sitting in my kitchen, but I appreciate your patience working through these unique circumstances. Myself and everyone else. We're all looking forward to that day when we can go back to normal and welcome you to campus the way we are

When I grew up in Lincoln, Nebraska, what you need to understand about the state of Nebraska is everything there revolves around one thing. You really have nothing else. And so I like to think of our college experience as a lot like football. You're not going pro in football, you're trying to go pro in your major. So when you graduate, you're looking to go professional in either engineering, computer and

animation in gaming, company management, construction management, whatever the case may be. In order to do that, you need good coaching. You need to practice hard, and you need to perform on game day. And so academics and sports, it's all pretty much the same in my mind. So if you want to improve your game and you want to win, you got to do one very important thing. And that's practice. Nobody in sports got good at their sport, by not practicing in the same is going to be true for your academic era Chico State. So in my mind, going to class is the same as going to practice. You should never skip practice. That's not how you get better. Your homework, your quizzes, your exams, that's game day. That's where you perform. And that's where you show what you got your internships in the summer. That's the same as going to the scouting, combine. That's where all the pro scouts get a good look. And then the end goal is to get drafted, find your professional contract, and then begin your career with big time. So I see it as all kinds of things.

Now, on our side, we've assembled a great coaching and training staff to help you be the best that you can be. We're here as a resource. So make sure you take full advantage of those resources. majors in our college are not are not easy. And but the one thing I can tell you is an absolute fact I have all over facing the world that every last one of you can be successful.

Your generation of students, a lot of people will give a bad rap to it. And every time I hear someone say that I always look him dead in the eye and I say the same thing. I have no idea what you're talking. Your generation is just different. You have access to more information than any other generation that has ever been on. You have technology that helps you access that. And what I've seen out of students is truly amazing, great problem solvers. You can multitask like nobody's business. And from what I've seen, all the students I've run across are hard workers, and they set the bar really high for themselves. And personally, that's what I love about you.

Now, I also have expectations for you too, because I'm a competitive person. I think we all want to win. But we know what you're capable of. So when you meet you're different. faculty members have different staff members here. The one thing I can always guarantee you is we see the incredible potential that you have. And we're here to help you reach that potential. We're not just your coaches, we're also your biggest cheerleader. So my best piece of advice I can give you, as you start your college career, simply use your resources.

Over the years, I've taught a lot of different students, and they all kind of run into the same issue at one point or another in their career. They get scared to ask a faculty member or staff member any questions. Usually they'll do bad on an exam or quiz or something like that. And when they come to talk to me about it, I always ask them, why didn't you come ask me questions beforehand if you didn't understand what was going wrong? And I almost always get the same answer back. Well, I didn't want you to think I was dumb. And I want to make this as clear as humanly possible. You asking questions. We'll never think that you came here to learn about these careers. The faculty members, we've been in these industries. For years, we've seen a lot of different things you have. So why would I expect you to know everything about this? If you've never seen it before, I've always assumed and I've taught class, the first time you've ever heard about one of these topics, when I told you about it, it is so good that this could be a little overwhelming and often very confusing. Go to the Student Success Center, get tutoring, get a peer group together. Never fear any of these things, they don't make you weak they make you better. So ask any question you want, we'll never think any less of you for it.

What I would always do is when someone asked me a question, I appreciate that you're practicing, you're putting in that work. And that shows that you're trying hard and that's all I ever ask you. You're going to meet some of your best lifelong friends here at Chico State. Some of your best

friends from the rest of your life, may be on the Zoom call right now, you may not even know it. So a great way to start is get study groups together for your classes. Practice is easier when we all work together. And what you may come to find out is, is when you get with these groups, you may even have a lot of fun doing practice as well. And if you're not having fun, what's the point?

All right, I hope you're all as excited as I am that you're here with my little rant about football has helped you see kind of the opportunities that you have and Stevie attitude from the faculty's perspective of how great we know that you can all be. You're only going to get out of it, what you put into it. And so know that we're ready to put in the work on our side to help you. And when life returns back to normal, and you see me walking around campus, please come up and say hi, I love getting to know all of our amazing students. But don't be surprised one of the first words out of my mouth will be, well how is practice. Right gang? It's an absolute pleasure. I'm super excited. Let me again, welcome your campus to the ECC team. And I look forward to a great school year. Let me pass this back off to Jennifer and she's going to show you some of those great support services that we can help you.

Jennifer McKee- ESSC 23:48

Thank you, Blake, that was awesome and cannot segue better into talking about some of those resources. First I wanted to do walk through some of the services on campus and then I realized you probably didn't want to hear my voice for the next 25 minutes. So I wanted to really promote that we created a video for providing some of this overview of some of the E-advising tools that you have access to as a student 24/7. So that's kind of this call out right here in the middle of our screen. What I really want to first I guess introduce myself is My name is Jennifer McKee. I am a college advising and retention specialist. And my main woman on my right hand side is Michele Mittman. She is going to be an additional fantastic resource in the ESSC or the Engineering Student Success Center. We are really here to support you for any questions that you have because a lot of times you might not know where to go to ask. We are a great place to get started and it might be that we're connecting you with your faculty member or your faculty advisor or your instructor or a service on campus. So please, as Blake said, I think that's a great point of there is no dumb question. It's a lot of times just making sure that you're getting the right answer to get you set up for success. Some of the support that we can offer in the Engineering Student Services Center is really Student Success Center, excuse me, is kind of looking over your schedule. Do we want to talk that out? What are your graduation goals? How does that align with your courses? What is your faculty advising say and kind of digesting some of that information. We will be available virtually so emails a great way to get ahold of us we can set up phone appointments or zoom appointments and we will be posting more information about our schedule very soon. So please feel free to use us as a resource. A lot of times too, it can get very complicated with general education requirements as they overlap with your major or it can get confusing for prerequisites and course sequencing. So as we are certainly here to be that support service to answer those questions, to get things clarified and provide some of those details and insight coming from a perspective of being a professional staff member here on campus. So please feel free to reach out and utilize our resource.

What I do want to also highlight is where you can find our website. I think this is a really good thing to think about bookmarking, because you will probably use a lot of these sites as we're navigating this world in a virtual environment. So the very first one that you should be putting on as a favorite is the College of Engineering, Computer Science and Construction Management homepage. This is the college page where all of the departments and services can branch out from. The easiest way to get

there is going to the CSU Chico homepage and adding the ECC little end to your backslash. So www.csuchico.edu/ECC. This brings you to the homepage where you can find links to all of the departments and programs. So a great way to kind of navigate to your major, the requirements that fall into your major, who your faculty advisors are, really great resources that you can find to connect with your department.

Additionally, we have the Engineering Student Success Center. So this link here is where you can get to our homepage. There you can see my lovely picture as well as Michele's. We've got some wonderful student assistants that will be joining us but we have really consolidated a lot of the student resources that students need at the tip of a fingertip. So just a few clicks away. This is where we are going to be putting this Wildcat Welcome video. So you can see here it is already up and live. Again, this is going to be about 25 minute video that gives you the structure of campus. What does it mean to be part of the College of ECC? What does that really mean there's multiple colleges on campus, I don't really understand what that structure looks like in the university, who is my department chair. This is going to help you with that overview of the structure of campus and how services work here at CSU Chico.

Further, it will start giving you an overview of things like your Smart Planner, which you can use to plan out your time to graduation. It gives you an overview of the Degree Progress Report, so making sure that you are taking courses that are working towards your degree progress. It's also going to give you an overview on things like the Wildcat Scheduler, which is a very, very helpful tool for putting together your schedule for the spring semester and beyond or even making adjustments to your current full schedule. It gives you an overview of the Student Service Center as well as what if I wanted to change my major? What do I find for test credit and transfer credit summaries? So again, kind of giving you an overview of the e-advising tools. I strongly encourage to take a look at this video and if questions come up, please feel free to reach out to us at the Engineering Student Success Center so that way we can go over any of those questions that you have, as well as continue to clarify some of the policies and procedures of campus. You can certainly email myself and Michele at any time we've got our email addresses up there but also want to highlight the ECC advising email as well if you're just kind of looking for I don't remember who that was that I was trying to contact ECC advising gets to Michelle and myself as well.

So again, I really just want to continue to echo what Blake said we are super excited to have you here on campus. We recognize that the virtual environment is going to be a little bit different but Chico is known to be that high touch, really student success and student focused. So we want to be here to continue to cheerlead you on the way whether that's just very first semester but really getting you all the way to graduation, so please feel free rely on us for support. I've met many of you over the summer, Michelle may have met with you as well. We look forward to connecting with you and helping you on this journey. And again, continuing to be those cheerleaders as you're practicing and really honing in on your craft.

With that, I'm going to hand it over to the departments to start doing just a really brief overview of some of the programs that we have here on campus and making that connection to where your major falls, as well as kind of introducing themselves as we go into those individual sessions in just a short minute. Thank you all so much. excited to have you. Please feel free to utilize us in the Engineering Student Success Center. One last thing sorry, apologies before I handed off one last thing that I forgot to mention, please mark to save the date. So get your calendars out or write this down. You want to save the date. We are going to be having an **Engineering, Computer Science and**

Construction Management Career Fair. I realized that you're just starting this semester and whoa what she's already talking about careers. It is never too early to be attending career fairs. We highly encourage students to come and attend whether you're a freshman all the way to a senior, the earlier you attend these career fairs, the better you're making those connections, you're getting your resume together. So Mark the date for **October 15. from 1 to 6pm.** We're going to be doing holding this virtually. You'll see some more communication coming from the college in the in the next few weeks about that, but wanted to really give a plug to save the date for **October 15 for the career fair**, that's coming up in a few short weeks. And with that, I hand it off to Computer Animation and Game Development.

Clarke Steinback (CAGD) 31:54

So good morning, everybody. As we say, for the synergy of creativity and technology, we make video games, animations, immersive, environments. We work in real studio as environments. We work in teams, very diverse teams, are focused focus on communications and problem solving. As emphasized, we do real work. So I do have a couple of examples on this page of some of the things that we did last year. We have a Google Play Store as well as a child channel. We do AR VR to video work, motion capture, LIDAR scanning technologies, taking your creativity and that technology to produce some interesting look at what we do. And how we do it and realize that a lot of hard work, and those of you who are not in danger do realize we have a minor video game design, minor in animation and CGI. So want to add on here to me. So our skill sets and morality to my board. We're looking forward to an exciting semester and year. next

Steffen Mehl (CIVL) 33:36

Hi welcome to all of the Civil Engineers and the other incoming students to ECC. Civil Engineering. I like to think of it as sort of the jack of all trades engineering, we really do a little bit of everything as you can see there from environmental engineering geotechnical, structural transportation, water resources. Man. So there's a, there's a little bit of everything. So, you know, you're more into one aspect of Civil Engineering than another we have a very broad program that covers all those aspects that will be something. We do pride ourselves on a lot of hands on work. You'll see that I think in a lot of the other ECC programs here that we're we are very hands on versus theoretical. But that's not to say that we don't do the the hardcore theory as well. We are ABET accredited. And so it is a rigorous program and I know you're all up for the challenge. A lot of our work is is group work. We have capstone projects that are that are group based, oftentimes based on real rooms, real world scenarios, things like that. There very active student chapters. Participate in student based competitions like Concrete Canoe and Steel Bridge, you can see that the photo down there on the corners from the Steel Bridge competition are facts. They also do a lot of research. And they often ask students involved in that research center photo on the bottom there you see, one of our faculty members are metal engineering, bringing the two undergraduate students research project. And then on the right panel, the Dr. Chang, California Pavement Preservation Center. So we're very fortunate to have that on our on our campus. They do a lot of contract work and what have you. Through Caltrans, Cal Recycle and other entities, open up opportunities for undergraduate students to get involved as you see that on real world research projects, you're doing lab testing and things like that, that you might be doing in your career long term. So with that, I'll give you more details later on in the session.

Tyson Henry (CSCI) 35:57

Hi, I'm Tyson Henry. I'm the Chair of Computer Science. I like to welcome you all here to this very unusual first day. I wish we were all on campus and we could share some hotdogs, which usually happens on this first day. Computer Science is all about building software. We have two distinct majors. One is a Bachelor's Science in Computer Science, and it focuses a lot on software development, and a wide range of theoretical and applied topics in computer information systems, which is a little bit more about running a large, or, I'm sorry, working for the IT department of a large company. Our majors tend to be really fun for students who like it. It's a very unique aptitude. It's not for everybody, but for those of you who like it. It's, it's a great field and there are a lot of wonderful jobs out there. I do encourage all of you to consider taking at least one programming class or first programming class, computer science. A weapon, many, many majors in that class, but it's kind of good for everybody. And if you take it on the early side, it turns out you love this field, then you can think about maybe switching to say that, but if this is the field for you, it'd be good to find out. Alright, well welcome and now we're moving on to when I forgot to look this afternoon.

Feraidon Ataie (CIMT) 37:22

Good morning, everybody. Welcome to ECC. Friday and as a faculty member in Concrete Industry Management program. I will see you, all of you in our CIM program session. But for now, I'll let Amanda Mueller to briefly introduce the program to you. Thank you all welcome again.

Amanda Muller (CIMT) 37:53

Hi, everybody. My name is Amanda Muller and I also Looking at the Concrete Industry Management program, we're a really, really unique program on campus through the way forces in the country, actually the world that is programming this class. So when you're getting into something like this, we have a lot of special resources that I know Greg and I are going to talk about next session. Things like fellowships, job placement, lead internships, student travel, those are all things that really are a huge part of being in a program like ours. So the biggest thing I want to point out like Tyson mentioned if you're interested in kind of getting your feet wet with the course, CIMT 101 is always a great course to check out if you're not sure about pretty much sums it up. I'm going to move on to the Construction Management.

Chris Souder (CMGT) 38:51

Good morning everybody. My name is Chris Souder and the Chair of Construction Management. Welcome to Chico State and Congratulations you CM majors for making a great decision on coming to Chico State in construction management. We pride ourselves on several things and CMGT. We have excellent industry support, which equals job placement in internships and graduation and after graduation jobs. Our faculty have excellent and many years of experience in the industry which they'll bring to the classroom for you, our student organizations and out of the classroom experiences that we offer our students and what they can involve with. When we break out in your session, I have about four or five students that are going to talk to you about their experiences and their clubs that they're involved with. In construction we prepare you to go either into the heavy civil industry, the commercial industry, maybe industrial, maybe specialty trades, mechanical, electrical, as well. two options for you. Everybody gets the same education, we don't break you out into those individual sectors. However, what you'll find is, those are the sectors that we talked about in the recruiting companies come in.

That's how we kind of categorize things. Hopefully you do at least two or three internships in your time here in Chico. So that when you graduate, you feel like you've got all the information you need in order to select the sector that you're going to go into. With that, I think I'll save the rest of our breakout session. But again, I just want to emphasize how diverse our major is between management, estimating, planning, pre construction, construction, engineering, all those things that go into producing a building or a highway or dam or bridge, etc. So we forward to meeting you. And please do your best on the virtual learning. This semester. It's pretty new to all of us enrolling to work together to get experience. Let's move on to the next department.

Kathleen Meehan (EECE) 41:13

Hi, my name is Kathleen Meehan. I'm Chair of the Electrical and Computer Engineering Department. We're have two to three programs under the department that BS in computer engineering and BS in electrical Electronic Engineering. So we course deal with pretty much everything you touch has something that one of our engineers have designed from a discipline standpoint. So we ended up having a lot of projects and laboratories activities in our classes. So you will get a lot of hands on sorry I was dealing with something else before it came in. So I'm trying to pull together compensation though. So you'll get a lot of hands on experience. We also have an IEEE student branch. It's open to everyone. And we have had civil engineers actually a business a chemistry major, come join our IEEE student branch. A lot of students want to know about microprocessors and electronics because it does touch everything that you touch. So even if you're not one of our degree majors, please feel free to join our IEEE branch. The college will have information, hopefully about a club day coming up but, if you're interested in joining us, feel free to email me have my email somewhere (kmeehan@csuchico.edu). But we have, in addition to the two majors, it's extremely easy for people to minor in Computer Engineering, particularly our Electrical/Electronic engineers in our Mechatronic Engineers, it's very easy to add a computer engineering writer, or computer engineers, a lot of them do in minor in Computer Science. We have coming soon a Biomedical Engineering minor that a number of people might be interested in. And then people are two majors can easily minor in Mathematics, Physics. So if anybody's interested in a minor in Computer Engineering, the minor in biomedical engineering or if you're one of our students, and they're interested in doing another minor, mathematics or physics, please talk to us. Talk to your major advisor who should be listed on your Student Center Talk to us. Talk to me. Thank you very much.

Greg Watkins (MEM) 44:06

Greetings. My name is Greg Watkins. I'm chair of the Department of Mechanical and Mechatronic engineering and Advanced Manufacturing and Applied Robotics, the longest department name within the university. We are known for our hands on programs that are grounded in fundamentals. We have three distinct majors mechanical engineering, mechatronics, engineering, and a new program. We're quite excited about an advanced manufacturing and robotics. talk more about that one in the breakout session. We are known for accessible faculty, a lot of us have industrial experience. We also are known for project based learning throughout the curriculum. One of the distinctive nature elements of our program is a senior capstone program all seniors in all three majors. Go through this program where you work in teams on a real world project from a real sponsor from outside University. We have some modern very modern facilities and equipment and we have initiatives to modernize some of the rest of them. I would like to highlight mechatronics lab we have on campus. It was funded by OMRON

Corporation. Another hallmark of our department is how many of our students are actively engaged in extracurricular activities. We have a lot of clubs and we also have a lot of competition teams. We will obviously be working through challenges in those areas.

Jennifer McKee- ESSC 45:53

So thank you to all of our departments for kind of providing that overview and making that connection. At this time will we will kind of provide those opportunities for you as students to be able to break out and kind of get more of that connection to that major to your department, as well as have a little bit more of an interactive session.

In the chat, Seema has added all of the Zoom links, so you can just link from there as we start to transition to kind of the individual department sessions. Just want to really say thank you again for joining us. We are so incredibly excited to welcome you to the Fall 20 semester. We are excited to kind of embark on this creative way of learning and are looking forward to welcoming you to campus sometime in the near future as well as for certainly some of those students who have on on campus labs this semester. So we really appreciate your time.

Once again, we will make these recordings available both on the College of ECC website. I will be putting that in the chat. Again, a good resource to bookmark. But we really do hope that you take advantage of all of the support and the success and the people that are here to help cheerlead and help you coach, coach yourselves to becoming those professionals that we are guiding you towards after graduation.

So want to thank all of the departments and the faculty who were able to join us thank you to Dean Blake Wentz for for having that wonderful introduction. That was a great way to kick off our semester. We encourage you to join your breakout department session. Again, those links have been added to the chat. We will make those available on our website as well. or excuse me the videos as they start coming in from the various departments. We hope you enjoy your fall semester and look forward to continuing to interact with you in those departments sessions. We'll keep this kind of session open in case you need to navigate from one location to the next but kind of as you are starting to transition, please feel free to start joining those department sessions.

Again, thank you for all of those that are joining us. We really appreciate you taking the time. This is an important way to kick off the fall semester so we want to make sure that you're set up for success as you start on Monday. If anybody has any questions, do feel free to add them to the chat, as well as the q&a. You're welcome to raise your hand looks like certainly students are starting to navigate to the various departments. So again, we really appreciate you joining us. appreciate you taking the time. We are excited to welcome you to CSU Chico on the College of ECC and your major and department.

49:16