The Division of Information Technology has received reports of a fraudulent text message being sent to admitted students, claiming that their admission to Chico State has been revoked due to compromising evidence. Since 2020, occurrences of “smishing” (phishing via text message) have become more common in education environments.

What you need to know about “smishing” attacks:
Cybercriminals send text messages pretending to be from trusted sources to trick people into sharing private information or clicking on malicious links. Here are some common red flags to look out for if you receive a text message from an unknown sender:

- **Unsolicited Messages**: Receiving unexpected texts from unknown numbers or organizations.
- **Urgent or Threatening Language**: Messages that create a sense of urgency or fear, such as threats to revoke your admission.
- **Requests for Personal Information**: Asking for sensitive details like passwords, social security numbers, or credit card information.
- **Suspicious Links**: URLs that seem out of place or direct you to unfamiliar websites.
- **Too Good to Be True Offers**: Promises of rewards, gifts, or opportunities that seem overly generous or improbable.

“Smishing” messages often contain urgent warnings that prompt users to act quickly. Please remember to always be cautious with unexpected texts, especially those asking for personal details or directing you to unfamiliar websites or phone numbers. When in doubt, contact official Chico State offices by looking them up and contacting them directly instead of replying to emails or text messages that you are not sure are trustworthy. If you receive any suspicious messages, do not respond or click on any links. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to Information Technology Support Services (ITSS) by emailing itss@csuchico.edu or by calling (530) 898-4357 for support.

Stay safe and vigilant.

Division of Information Technology (DoIT)
California State University, Chico

doit@csuchico.edu | https://www.csuchico.edu/it