

Are There Enough Resources for Chico State Minority Students?: Challenges Faced by Particular Populations

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Abstract: This research attempts to better understand the experiences of first-generation minority college student at California State University, Chico. This information will help us as a community improve our on campus resources first-year minority students as well as upperclassmen minorities. As researchers we were interested in how a person's environment affected the way they viewed California State University, Chico's level of diversity. For each interviewee, we required the individuals to be 18 or older and obtained their consent to participate in the research. The participants responded to questions formulated by the team to study the experience of first-generation minority students.

Research Question:

- What support do you receive being a first year student? Are the resources that Chico State has provided enough?
- These are important questions because it gives the researchers a perspective on the minority students lives.

Methods

- We created a detailed set of questions to guide our interviews. We conducted our interviews over a month and a half, completing ten interviews in that period.
- Participants were recruited by the research team in the Butte Courtyard.
 - Gathered data by asking the interviewees questions regarding their experience in Chico State.
 - Finding Participants was difficult. Many students when approached indicated they were too busy to participate.
 - Data analysis was completed by the research team reviewing the interview notes for common themes.

Results

- Most participants answered with good, full-length answers that were useful to our project
- Our research team found that most of these interviews were divided when it came to the question of whether students should look for extracurricular activities and the university should focus on creating more resources and clubs to make students feel at home.
- We found a diversity of opinions among respondents due to varied backgrounds of family life, where they lived, their ethnicity, or even their sexuality.

Recommendations

- They should be more clubs that represent each ethnicity. Most students are unaware of the existing clubs.
- There should be more events that showcase the diversity histories of minorities in California. Increased awareness will help to bring us together.
- More resources should be devoted to supporting minority students at the university. Existing efforts need to be advertised better.