Remember to celebrate milestones as you prepare for the road ahead.

—Nelson Mandela
CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, CHICO'S 130 years of public service began in 1887, when John Bidwell donated eight acres of his prized cherry orchard to build Chico Normal School—establishing the first institution of higher education in the North State. The University Foundation was created in 1940. The nonprofit auxiliary engages those who care about Chico State; provides opportunities to enhance its teaching, research, and community programs; and guarantees ethical stewardship of gifts received.

The return on an investment in the University is far-reaching and never-ending. In addition to describing the Foundation’s fundraising and investment performance, this annual report highlights the human impact of giving. It features voices of donors, students, faculty, staff, and community members and demonstrates the essential role your philanthropy plays in our future.

We’re taking you On the Road with the development team, giving you a look at who and what it takes to build a culture of philanthropy at Chico State. Your generosity paved the way! Thank you.
Best Fundraising Year On Record

Total Raised From July 1, 2016–June 30, 2017
$14,818,352
This includes cash and multiyear and deferred pledges.

Donors are Supporting:

- **Buildings & Facilities**
  - $3,196,070
- **Public Services**
  - $3,710,722
  - Alumni, Public Radio, etc.
- **Athletics**
  - $302,664
- **Unrestricted**
  - $375,669
- **Other Programs**
  - $471,542
  - Career Services, Food Pantry, Student Research, etc.
- **Scholarships**
  - $2,497,078
  - Academic, Athletic, etc.
- **Faculty Endowments**
  - $1,075,000

Who’s Donating?
- 15,028 donors
- 39% Alumni
- 25% Friends
- 18% Parents
- 11% Students
- 2% Faculty and Staff

TOTAL NUMBER OF SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED
1,090
TOTAL SCHOLARSHIP MONEY AWARDED
$2,318,568

TOP DESIGNATIONS BY DOLLAR AMOUNT
1. New College of Business Building
2. Chico State Herbarium Endowment
3. Superior Region Endowment for Distance Learning in Social Work
4. Bell Family Presidential Scholarship Endowment
5. Heyden Homes – Dennis P. Murphy Endowed Professorship

TOP DESIGNATIONS BY NUMBER OF DONORS
1. Chico State Fund (Unrestricted) Diversity’s Brand New!
2. North State Public Radio
3. College of Business
4. Gateway Science Museum
5. Osher Lifelong Learning Institute

Largest Gift $2,000,000
Smallest Gift $1
Average Gift $264

5,805 Chico State alumni gave more than $7,000,000
3,730 friends gave nearly $1.9 million
2,697 parents gave nearly $640,000

11% Students
5% Organizations
2% Faculty and Staff

Corporations and foundations gave more than $5,000,000
Faculty and staff gave more than $265,000

TOP NUMBER OF TOWER SOCIETY DONORS
821
TOP NUMBER OF GOLD* TOWER SOCIETY DONORS
163

1,625 Students gave nearly $13,000
(doubling last year’s giving)

TOTAL ENDOWMENT VALUE
$60,995,401
TOTAL NET ASSETS
$82,100,774
How We Achieved Our Best Fundraising Year Yet

Get in! We’re taking you on the road with the 2016–17 development team who met with alumni, parents, and friends like you—traveling far and wide to create a groundswell of philanthropy that is transforming the way we teach, learn, work, research, and serve the public at Chico State.

Together, we’ll celebrate last year’s important milestones and successes and see who and what it takes to inspire more support than ever for Chico State.

12 DEVELOPMENT OFFICERS
924 FACE-TO-FACE VISITS
2,000 CUPS OF COFFEE CONSUMED
237 ZIP CODES VISITED
FARDEST CITY VISITED: TOKYO, JAPAN

While our frontline fundraisers were on the road, our team of student callers hit the phones to engage Wildcat supporters across the country.

30 STUDENT CALLERS
460,000+ PHONE CALLS MADE
14,975 AWESOME CONVERSATIONS

The result?
15,026 DONORS
33,390 GIFTS MADE
678 TOWER MEMBERS

WHO GAVE $13,166,494 IN GIFTS

...but who’s counting?

767 TOWER MEMBERS
33,390 GIFTS MADE
15,026 DONORS
$13,166,494 IN GIFTS

100% OF ALL DOLLARS RAISED IN 2016–17

REPRESENTING 89%
OF ALL DOLLARS RAISED IN 2016–17

TO SUPPORT 250+
Designations

...but who’s counting?
The Campaign Roadmap

**OUR GOAL IS TO RAISE $100 MILLION BY 2020 FOR THREE PRIORITIES:**
1. EMPOWER STUDENT SUCCESS THROUGH ANNUAL GIVING
2. BUILD CUTTING-EDGE FACILITIES
3. INVEST IN PEOPLE WITH NEW ENDOWMENTS FOR SCHOLARSHIPS, FACULTY FELLOWSHIPS, AND PROGRAMS

**DID YOU KNOW?**
There are usually three phases of a university campaign: the initial phase, the quiet phase, and the public phase. We are currently in the quiet phase of Transform Tomorrow | The Campaign for Chico State.

**JULY 2015 QUIET/LEADERSHIP PHASE**
- Engage leadership donors in major campaign initiatives
- Build internal awareness
- Increase levels of immediate support for people and programs across campus

**TOTAL RAISED FROM 2012-17**
$51,602,203

**$70 MILLION MARK**
Public Phase Begins
- Publicly celebrate our campaign's leadership donors and announce campaign to all students, alumni, parents, and friends
- Engage our entire Wildcat community in achieving our goal of $100 million by 2020
- Share stories of impact
- Wrap up and report out

**$100,000,000 CELEBRATE!**

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<td><strong>JULY 2012 INITIAL PLANNING PHASE</strong></td>
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<td>- Identify campus needs and strengths</td>
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<td>- Develop campaign priorities and infrastructure</td>
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**$51,602,203**
**TOTAL RAISED FROM 2012-17**

**$100,000,000 CELEBRATE!**
Thanks to you, our remarkable donors, we’re halfway to our goal of raising $100 million by 2020. Together, you are empowering student success. You’re giving deans and faculty immediate funding so they can create innovative curricula and real-world experiences that prepare students for meaningful careers. You’re helping us update and build new facilities, so gaps in state funding won’t hinder our ability to provide state-of-the-art learning. And you’re investing in people through scholarships, faculty fellowships, and program endowments.

It’s no accident that Chico State continues to be recognized for our return on investment by Money magazine and Washington Monthly or that we’re celebrating the best fundraising year on record. Alumni, students, parents, and friends across the country have taken their philanthropy to the next level. This is how we will transform more lives. And this is still in the quiet phase of our Transform Tomorrow journey!

Thank you for being a Chico State supporter and fueling our success—not only today, but for generations to come.

Sincerely,

Ahmad Boura
CEO, University Foundation and Vice President for University Advancement

FROM THE CEO

Campaign Progress

“Thank you for being a Chico State supporter and fueling our success—not only today, but for generations to come.”

TOTAL RAISED FROM 2012–17
$51,602,203

GIFTS BY TYPE

$31,012,357 CASH

$3,570,801 MULTIYEAR

$17,019,045 DEFERRED

Cash: Gifts that can be spent immediately to benefit areas that donors designate

Multiyear pledge: Gifts that will be received in total over several years

Deferred: Gifts that are planned, including bequests, charitable trusts, life insurance, etc.

CONNECTING OUR COMMUNITY OF SUPPORTERS

Tower Society events allow members to connect with each other, standout students, and campus leaders.
July 2016

First Gift
Chico State parent Diana Perez kicks off the year with our first gift to the Chico State Fund, which provides unrestricted support to meet the University’s greatest needs.

July 13

First Tower Gift
Professor Emeritus Chuck Nelson (’72, ’78) and Paula Busch (’73, ’75) put the first Tower Society gifts on the books, supporting several designations close their hearts. Paula’s gifts include the Jennifer Tancreto Memorial Award for art students; the Jerri Dean and Patrick Kopp Student Print Prize; and the Turner Acquisitions Fund. Chuck supports the College of Behavioral and Social Sciences, including a student award for research and creativity in geological sciences.

July 24

$100,000 Raised
San Mateo County Controller Juan Raigoza (’89, ’99) puts us over the $100,000 mark.

August 2016

August 22

First Student Donor
Elizabeth Face (bottom left), a member of the Student Philanthropy Council, makes the first student gift of the year to the Chico State Fund. You may have talked with her at campus events like the Family Weekend BBQ or on the phone, as she’s also one of 30 student callers at the Chico State Calling Center.

August 25

First Foundation Gift
The Foor Foundation, a longtime supporter of Chico State, makes the first private foundation gift of the year to two funds that are advancing diversity in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM): Latinos in Technical Careers and the National Society of Black Engineers.

September 2016

August 22

$500,000 Mark
Robert (’06) and Kelly (’05) Strazzarino give to the College of Engineering, Computer Science, and Construction Management and Wildcat Athletics, helping us surpass the $500,000 mark. Above left: Robert, founder and CEO of College Scheduler, also gives back as a judge for the College of Business Center for Entrepreneurship’s Business Concepts Competition, which helps students turn ideas into business ventures.

September 26

First New Endowed Scholarship Established
Dolores Sellers (’75, ’93) establishes the first new scholarship endowment of the year—the Clif Sellers Memorial Scholarship—in honor of her late husband. Clif Sellers (’76) served as the planning director of the City of Chico. His memorial scholarship will benefit students majoring in geography and planning in the College of Behavioral and Social Sciences.

October 2016

October 1

University Foundation Special Endowment Awards Distributed
University Foundation Special Endowment Awards distribute nearly $150,000 to support innovative curricula across campus. One award allowed faculty to purchase two state-of-the-art Microsoft HoloLens so students can create mixed-reality storytelling in a new multidisciplinary course: “Virtual and Augmented Reality for Gaming and Media.”

October 16

5,000 Donors
We celebrate 5,000 donors thanks to Kimberly Merrifield (’90) and her gift to North State Public Radio, which had more than 3,000 donors this year!

October 28

$1 Million Mark
Tower Society member Mark Schwartz (’84) and his gift to the Multievent Legacy Scholarship, which benefits our track and field student-athletes, puts us over the million-dollar mark.
December 2016

First New Annual Scholarship Established

“I literally fell apart in tears when I got the (scholarship) letter because I couldn’t believe it. You think it will never happen. I feel so full of gratitude.”

— Corina Yetter, Crankstart Re-Entry Scholarship Recipient

The Crankstart Foundation creates the first new annual scholarship of the year, providing $50,000 in support for re-entry students like Corina Yetter. After the Great Recession, the marketing major and her husband lost nearly everything. Supporting his return to college and raising her children put her own educational aspirations on hold. With teenagers and a long commute from Sutter, the aspiring lawyer has more to balance than the traditional student. Her scholarship makes it all possible.

December 30

Campaign Gift

The Harry C. and Deborah L. Elliot Family Foundation grow the impact of its Elliot Family Construction Management Endowment, advancing Darryl Schoen’s priority to invest in people through student scholarship endowments.

December 31

Major Campaign Gift

Darryl (’77) and Jaci Schoen make a $1.1 million gift to a key campaign priority—a new cutting-edge building for the College of Business—because they believe in educating tomorrow’s leaders. Darryl also joined the University Foundation Board of Governors and said, “My Chico Experience is almost indescribable. I gave so much as a person and Chico continues to tug at me, and I want to do all I can to assist the kids in Chico in reaching their goals.” Jaci added, her voice full of emotion, “I feel very much a sense of pride for Darryl but also a deep sense of ‘We’re doing the right thing. It’s truly the right thing to be giving back.’

Other major supporters of the new College of Business building include Cathy Pleasant, Glen Thomas (’83) and Joyce Denman-Thomas (’82), and Keith (’76) and Cheryl Bowey.

November 2016

November 4

Tower Society Donors Increase Impact

Samuel (’85) and Laura Fogleman (’85) grow their Samuel and Laura Fogleman Scholarship Endowment to support current and future accounting students.

“If we have this kind of facility, we’ll attract more students and more faculty because they will want to be part of what we’re going to build for them.”

— Darryl (’77) and Jaci Schoen

November 4

Tower Society Donors Increase Impact

Samuel (’85) and Laura Fogleman (’85) grow their Samuel and Laura Fogleman Scholarship Endowment to support current and future accounting students.

“Education is our great equalizer in terms of opportunity. Scholarships bridge financial obstacles for hardworking students and give them a vote of confidence in a world full of unknowns.”

— Laura (’85) and Samuel (’85) Fogleman

January 2017

January 19

$5 Million Mark

By giving back to the College of Behavioral and Social Sciences, George Parrott (’60) helps us reach the $5 million mark by expanding his two named scholarship endowments for psychology students. George L. Parrott Outstanding Student Shaina Russelkum (’17) is now studying neuroscience at the University of Buffalo and Waleed Jami (’17), recipient of the George L. Parrott Psychology Transition Award, is working toward his PhD in psychology at the University of Nevada, Reno.

January 28

10,000 Donors

Graduates of the Last Decade (GOLD) Tower Society Member Daniel Lofgren (’09) and his gift to the Department of Philosophy help us reach 10,000 donors.

February 14

Major Campaign Gift

Professor Emerita Valerie L. Smith celebrates her birthday at the ribbon-cutting event announcing the expansion of the University’s anthropology museum. Her additional $250,000 gift grew the Valerie L. Smith Museum of Anthropology’s footprint, which is key to Transform Tomorrow’s goal to renovate spaces across campus to advance active learning.

February 14

Major Campaign Gift

“In this place where I can put my heart as well as my worldly goods and make a donation that will live on.”

— Professor Emerita Valerie L. Smith

January

Major Campaign Gift

In support of Transform Tomorrow’s priority to invest in people through faculty fellowships, Dennis Murphy (’94) and Hayden Homes establishes the Hayden Homes–Dennis P. Murphy Endowed Professorship to recruit and retain outstanding faculty in the Department of Civil Engineering. In addition to his endowment, Dennis also supports the comprehensive lab renovations in the College of Engineering, Computer Science, and Construction Management provides annual support to advance the construction management department’s applied learning and research.

“I can’t say enough for my mentors who are here. These guys really made an impact on my life and so did Chico State.”

— Dennis Murphy (’94)
March 2017

March 3
Inauguration of President Gayle E. Hutchinson

President Gayle E. Hutchinson was officially invested as Chico State’s president. Her motto, “Together We Will,” reflects her commitment to building a culture of philanthropy among Chico State’s students, alumni, parents, faculty, staff, and friends. Read more on p. 18.

“Together, we will transform tomorrow.”
—President Gayle E. Hutchinson

March 27
Tower Members Expand Program’s Impact

Professor Emeritus Daniel Kagan and Carol Kirk, who are also former Chico State parents, give to the Chemistry Summer Research Institute. They are among the community of supporters who expanded our physics and chemistry summer programs to include seven of the eight departments in the College of Natural Sciences. Seventy students added paid research experience to their resumes, including three students who conducted research with Professor Monica So at the Sandia National Laboratory in Livermore.

April 2017

April 6
1,000 Student Donors!

Mia Xavier’s gift to the Chico State Fund puts us over the 1,000 student donors mark. She is among the 1,625 student donors whose gifts provided more than $13,000 to support the Chico State Basic Needs Project, which is addressing student food and housing insecurity, affecting thousands of students each year.

May 2017

May 5
Major Campaign Gift

Dan Guadino gives an additional $1 million to expand the impact of his Bell Family Presidential Scholarship, which he established in 2013 with a $2 million endowment. The University’s largest scholarship endowment supports Transform Tomorrow’s priority to invest in people. The four-year scholarship supports the College of Agriculture’s top students—Austin Dowse, Kelley Duggan, and Samantha Bright—are pictured with their Livestock Judging Team, which swept the competition at the 2016 Western Fall Classic in Medford, winning the beef, sheep, offer, and questions categories of the contest.

May 9
Major Campaign Gift

Advancing Transform Tomorrow’s priority to invest in people, the Art and Marie Welch Education Fund and Art and Marie Welch Teaching Endowment are supporting students who have a “fire in their belly” to become teachers. Marie Welch (right) was never able to complete her teaching credential at Chico State after World War II. To honor her story and ensure aspiring teachers won’t have to give up their dreams, the education fund aims to remove barriers that keep students from their goals and marks the School of Education’s first program endowment.

June 2017

June 7
Major Campaign Gift

An anonymous donor provides the first major $500,000 gift to a key campaign priority—a new cutting-edge Agriculture Complex at the University Farm—which will add a farm store, creamery, and educational center to our 800-acre “living laboratory” for applied learning and research.

June 24
Major Campaign Gift

The California Institute for Behavioral Health Solutions gives $1 million to support distance learning in social work as a way to build the North State’s mental health workforce.

June 21
Long time Supporter Receives Honorary Degree

Community partner and concrete industry leader Doug Guerrero received an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters for his service to the Chico State CIM program and its students, as well as his leadership on the University Foundation Board of Governors.

May 12
Major Campaign Gift

Satisfying their support of Jonathan Davenport’s priority to renovate existing spaces into state-of-the-art learning spaces, the Chico Concrete Industry Management (CIM) Patrons and the CIM National Steering Committee gave an additional $400,000 gift to advance the comprehensive lab renovation in the College of Engineering, Computer Science, and Construction Management. The CIM Patrons are a philanthropic group of individuals and organizations who have donated more than $3.6 million to support the University’s CIM program, which is one of only four in the nation and the only program in the western US.

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On the Road and Back Again

My philosophy has always been that, when we come together, we succeed in tremendous ways. Connecting with alumni donors is like a homecoming. It fuels the Wildcat family bond.

I met Distinguished Alumnus Dennis Murphy ('94) at a downtown Chico coffee shop on Main Street in December 2016. A civil engineering graduate, Murphy has risen in the world of homebuilding to become CEO of Hayden Homes in Oregon. When Murphy graduated, doors opened and he walked through them. Speaking with him, it was clear that he believes to his very core that Chico State was essential to his success.

Today, he considers it his duty and responsibility to give back, and I’m proud to say he is one of our leading benefactors in Transform Tomorrow | The Campaign for Chico State (see p. 15). When Murphy speaks of his Chico Experience, it makes me want to hug him. So, on that day, I did.

With sweeping changes in public support for higher education, a significant part of a university president’s role today is to raise money to promote student success through real-world learning opportunities, scholarships, and cutting-edge facilities, labs, and technology. In my first year as Chico State’s president, I had the distinct good fortune to meet alumni like Dennis, as well as parents, industry leaders, and friends across the nation. When I shared stories about Chico State’s students, faculty, staff, and programs, our alumni enthusiastically recounted their own transformative experiences.

Earlier this fall, I had the opportunity to meet with former California Assemblyman Rusty Areias ('74). There is a realness, a genuineness, to people who graduate from Chico State, and Areias exemplifies this. The first thing he wanted to know: “What is happening on campus?” And then, he started sharing stories. Over lunch he asked, “How can I help?…” And so it goes.

“Together We Will” in my mind is a key phrase to move forward the mission of Chico State, to build upon our legacy and tradition that we are a community, that we are family. As we are on the road and connecting with alumni, parents, and friends, they are turning to us and asking how they can give back. In this way, our family comes full circle. Together, we will transform tomorrow.

Sincerely,

Gayle E. Hutchinson
President
Financial Impact Report

A RECORD-SETTING YEAR

Gifts & Pledges
In 2016–17, alumni, parents, friends, and other supporters donated and pledged more than $14.8 million to academic, athletic, applied research, and public service programs across campus.

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<th>FY16–17</th>
<th>FY15–16</th>
<th>FY14–15</th>
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<tr>
<td>Cash</td>
<td>$7,300,279</td>
<td>$5,102,950</td>
<td>$7,158,755</td>
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<tr>
<td>In-Kind Gifts</td>
<td>$433,368</td>
<td>$780,061</td>
<td>$251,200</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pledges</td>
<td>$5,766,185</td>
<td>$1,784,933</td>
<td>$4,250,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>TOTAL GIFTS AND PLEDGES</td>
<td>$14,818,352</td>
<td>$7,736,844</td>
<td>$11,659,955</td>
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Donors
In the 2016–17 fiscal year, 14,205 individuals and 821 foundations and corporations provided vital funds to support our students, faculty, and programs. Alumni continue to make up the largest percentage of our donor base (39 percent) and their level of giving reached more than $7 million. The next largest groups of donors are friends and parents (26 percent and 18 percent, respectively).

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<th>FY16–17</th>
<th>FY15–16</th>
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<tr>
<td>Alumni</td>
<td>5,805</td>
<td>6,322</td>
<td>6,312</td>
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<tr>
<td>Parents</td>
<td>2,667</td>
<td>2,855</td>
<td>3,068</td>
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<tr>
<td>Faculty and Staff</td>
<td>348</td>
<td>193</td>
<td>174</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friends</td>
<td>3,730</td>
<td>3,754</td>
<td>3,508</td>
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<tr>
<td>Students</td>
<td>1,025</td>
<td>1,708</td>
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<td>Foundations &amp; Corporations</td>
<td>821</td>
<td>760</td>
<td>763</td>
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<td>Total</td>
<td>15,026</td>
<td>15,592</td>
<td>13,864</td>
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2016–17

Assets & Liabilities

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<td>ASSETS</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cash &amp; Cash Equivalents</td>
<td>$1,624,846</td>
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<td>Receivables &amp; Other Current Assets</td>
<td>$736,291</td>
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<td>Investments</td>
<td>$7,488,396</td>
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<td>Contributions Receivable – Net</td>
<td>$3,471,696</td>
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<td>Buildings and Equipment – Net of Accumulated Depreciation</td>
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<td>TOTAL ASSETS</td>
<td>$85,700,254</td>
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Liabilities & Net Assets

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<td>Accounts &amp; Notes Payable</td>
<td>$469,252</td>
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<tr>
<td>Liability Under Trust Agreements</td>
<td>$3,130,228</td>
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<td>TOTAL LIABILITIES</td>
<td>$3,599,480</td>
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Net Assets

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<tr>
<td>NET ASSETS</td>
<td>$82,100,774</td>
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The chart below compares Chico State’s FY 2016 pooled endowment investment performance to the following endowment groupings: Sector Index Benchmark, National Association of Colleges and University Business Officers (NACUBO) Size, NACUBO Style, and CSU Peers.

While all groups experienced endowment losses in FY 2016, Chico State outperformed other campuses in the CSU. The University’s three-year and five-year endowment performance also outperformed our CSU peers.

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<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Total Endowment</th>
<th>Net Assets</th>
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<td>2016–17</td>
<td>$60,995,401</td>
<td>$82,100,774</td>
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<td>2015–16</td>
<td>$53,938,221</td>
<td>$73,300,961</td>
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<td>2014–15</td>
<td>$54,844,630</td>
<td>$74,875,851</td>
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<td>2013–14</td>
<td>$52,562,821</td>
<td>$71,618,490</td>
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<td>2012–13</td>
<td>$47,761,235</td>
<td>$65,670,230</td>
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Statement of Financial Position

In five years, our total endowment value and net assets grew by 28 percent and 24 percent, respectively. The University Foundation’s net assets totaled $82,100,774 as of June 30, 2017. The total endowment, valued at $60,995,401, is managed by the Foundation’s Board of Governors through its Finance and Investment Committee and under the advisement of the independent investment advisory firm Arnerich and Massena, Inc.
As the new chair of the University Foundation Board of Governors (BOG), my goals are to build on the strong foundation we’ve achieved under the leadership of outgoing chair Mike Prime and CEO Ahmad Boura, including the following:

**CONTINUE 100 PERCENT BOG PARTICIPATION IN THE TOWER SOCIETY.**

One of the greatest joys I’ve had as the BOG is to call donors, thank them for their support, and learn more about their road to and from Chico State. Under my leadership, the BOG will continue expanding our role in recognizing and stewarding your investments in Chico State’s future.

**ENSURE THE SUCCESS OF TRANSFORM TOMORROW.**

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**EXPAND VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES AND BOARD ENGAGEMENT.**

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**GENERATE NEW RESOURCES FOR STRATEGIC PRIORITIES.**

Working with campus leaders, we will develop a comprehensive philanthropy program to advance the University’s strategic priorities, innovative curricula, and learning community to benefit our beautiful region and empower student success.

**ATTRACT LEADERS AND INNOVATORS TO THE BOARD.**

We will continue to build BOG membership with alumni, parents, and friends regionally and globally to increase annual giving, multiyear commitments, and deferred gifts to support Transform Tomorrow and raise $100 million by 2020.

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Tom Villa ('82)
Chair, University Foundation Board of Governors

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**FROM THE CHAIR**

**Where We’ve Been and Where We’re Going**

The road to Chico State from my hometown followed a route thousands of students, alumni, and parents know well—Highway 80 East through the hustle and bustle of the Bay Area to Highway 113 and then north on Highway 99 across stretches of agricultural land traveling through small orchard-lined towns. I was searching for something different when I arrived in Chico, though I wasn’t quite sure what.

Growing up, I learned the value of hard work and business sense from my parents, who opened the first grocery store in Concord after World War II. At Diablo Valley College, I was a good student but not exceptional, and I honed the practical skills my parents had instilled by working full time while attending junior college. In Chico, something clicked. I became a highly successful student, ultimately completing my MBA in finance after graduating from Chico State.

This epiphany I had about learning was all because of Chico’s environment. I got emotional thinking about the professors and staff mentors who welcomed me as family and played an undeniable role in my success. I didn’t just go to class or work as a resident advisor. I talked about readings with my professors at Salmon Hole, I went to dinners with them to discuss lectures and future plans. They modeled open conversation and wired me with the adoption of cellular technologies.

I promised I would never forget my Chico Experience. When my son Paul ('16) also chose to study business at Chico State, my gratitude was shaped by a whole new lens. Giving back to this University as an alumnus, parent, and volunteer, guest lecturer, donor, and board member is my way of paying forward the gifts I received as a student that continue to benefit today’s students.

Sincerely,

Tom Villa ('82)
Chair, University Foundation Board of Governors

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**CONTINUE 100 PERCENT BOG PARTICIPATION IN THE TOWER SOCIETY.**

There’s this Chico energy that you keep with you, no matter where you go in life. The Tower Society is a key way to channel that energy back to students, professors, and programs. As you look through the honor roll on the next page, I’m proud that every 2016–17 BOG member is among our community of leadership donors—this is the level of participation and leadership we aim to achieve in 2017–18.

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The Tower Society started less than two years ago with a bold vision—to build a culture of philanthropy at Chico State. In 2016–17, membership grew to 678 members and 163 Graduate of the Last Decade (GOLD) members. That represents a 43 percent rise in Tower Society membership, as more people embrace the opportunity to expand real-world opportunities and life-changing experiences for our students so they can make their mark on our community, our nation, and our world.

Together, 15,026 alumni, students, parents, and friends raised a record $14,818,352 million in 2016–17. Of this total, 89 percent was generated by Tower Society members. They helped us pass the 80 percent mark in our effort to raise $100 million by 2020 for three priorities: empowering student success, renovating and building cutting-edge learning spaces, and investing in people by establishing endowments for scholarships, faculty support, and programs.

It is our honor and privilege to introduce the 2016–17 members of the Tower Society and recognize the essential role they play in supporting tomorrow’s leaders.
“Donating to the Tower Society is my way of giving back to the great education and life experience Chico State gave to me. It is my hope that others recognize the role the University plays in developing young people to reach their goals in life.”

—Brian Cerginho (’85)
“The Tower Society allows us to see the impact of our giving and stay connected to the University and its leaders, its faculty and, most importantly, to the students who will go on to shape the future.”

—Bob (69) and Bobbie Kiltwise
TOWER SOCIETY MEMBERS WHO CONTRIBUTED BETWEEN JULY 1, 2016, AND JUNE 30, 2017

Elizabeth Huerta ('13)
Jerry Hight ('89) and Susan Hight ('08)
Grant Higginbotham ('11)
Lena Heffern ('13)
Thomas Hatch ('14)
Casey Hatcher ('07)
Kyle Harper ('07)
Adam Hansen ('14)
Gian Gualco-Nelson ('15)
Briana Goldman ('07)
Scott Gilbreath ('11) and Christy Gilbreath ('11)
Reidun Gilbert ('09)
Jason Gilbert ('11)
Eric Giannini ('10)
Ariana Gehrig ('13)
Dillon Gallus ('08)
Matthew Fuhrman ('08)
Leslie Freeland ('08)
Greg Evans ('12)
Mariel Dory ('13)
Ernesto Delariva ('10)
Jamie Daly ('10)
Casey Chin ('14)
Betty Cheung ('12)
Stuart Chapman-Laver ('13)
Amanda Cassidy ('09)
Claudia Carrillo-Young ('07)
Ian Brooks ('08)
Megan Brightling ('12) and Kevin Brightling
Andrew Boian ('11)
Glenn Blakey ('15)
Shanti Betts ('08) and Alexis Betts
Christopher Sanchez ('15)
Keeley Rowe ('11)
Alan Rellaford ('82) and Daria Booth ('09)
William Reeder ('09)
Elizabeth Quivey ('10)
Trevor Prater ('12)
Benjamin Pope ('07)
Ashley Person ('10)
Jesus Palomino-Hernandez ('08)
Erik Nix ('11)
Jake Nelson ('11)
Sarah Napoliello ('11)
Kara Morison ('14)
Thomas Morgan ('09)
Mary Ann Mills ('09)
Manuel Mejia Jr. ('11) and Andrea Mejia ('09)
Dara Mckinley ('08)
Bryan McGruder Jr. ('07)
Lori Mankin ('10)
Kris Magri ('13)
Callie Lutz ('07)
Catriona Lund ('14)
Karin Lightfoot ('09) and Robb Lightfoot
Natalie Lehman ('10)
Adriana Laughlin ('11)
George Lawton ('10) and Sandy Layzer
Don Layne ('10) and Donna Layne ('13)
Malika Lohman ('15)
Karin Lightfoot ('07) and Robb Lightfoot
Johnny Lopez ('13) and Tracy Lopez ('13)
Curtis Love ('12)
Carl Lauter ('11)
Kris Lopata ('12)
Kurt Lang ('11)
Jordan Lang ('11)
Scott Lankford ('07) and Stanie Driscoll ('07)
Marco Dary ('07)
Roryline Dazier ('11)
Blair Dagget ('10)
Dusty Dunwoody ('10)
Greg Duen ('10)
Leslie Frewald ('11)
Jene Ficks ('11)
Matthew Fuerman ('10)
Bill Gill ('10)
Charles Garceau ('07)
Marina Garcia ('11)
Anna Galassi ('11)
Eric Gauneau ('10)
Jen Wieder ('10)
Reidon Gibert ('07)
Scott Gilbreath ('07) and Chris Gilbreath ('07)
Christina Gilmore ('10)
Gabe Ginnin ('10)
Brian Goldkneek ('10)
Stephene Greco ('10) and Joseph Greco
Jessica Giaclamo ('10)
Giannicko Nolan ('10)
Tennille Halbi ('11) and Lindley Halbi ('10)
Adam Hans ('09)
Kyle Haper ('10)
Casey Hatcher ('12)
Thomas Hatcher ('11)
Luna Hefren ('11)
Russell Heiden ('12)
Grant Heig footh ('11)
Jerry Hight ('11) and Susan Hight ('11)
Elizabeth Harris ('11)
Mark Hughes ('11) and Kelly Hughes ('11)
Andrew Hunter ('11)
Michael Huhn ('07) and Connie Huhn ('11)
Jacqueline Hansen ('10)
Mikey Johnson ('11)
Cory Johnson ('13)
Peter Johnson ('10)
Benjamin Johnson ('09)
Arielle Johnson ('09)
Taylor Johnson ('12)
Holly Johnson ('11)
Justin Johnson ('11)
Andrew Johnson ('11)
Jerritt Johnson ('11)
Taylor Johnson ('11)
Stephen Johnson ('11)
Tricia Joyce ('11)
Michael Joyce ('12)
Jared Joyce ('11)
Erik Joyce ('11)
Randy Joyce ('10)
John Joyce ('11)
Sarah Joyce ('11)
Jordan Joyce ('10)
Steve Joyce ('11)
Dean Joyce ('11)
Shelby Joyce ('10)
John Joyce ('11)
Emily Joyce ('11)
Prince Joyce ('10)
Patrick Joyce ('11)
Ethan Joyce ('11)
Andrew Joyce ('11)
Kendall Joyce ('12)
Fong Joyce ('11)
Gabe Joyce ('10)
Kathleen Joyce ('10)
Grand Joyce ('11)
Regan Joyce ('10)
Renee Joyce ('10)
Cory Joyce ('11)
Lindsey Joyce ('10)
David Joyce ('12)
Peter Joyce ('11)
Carly Joyce ('10)
Levi Joyce ('11)
Jared Joyce ('10)
Julius Joyce ('12)
Bill Joyce ('11)
Tanner Joyce ('09)
Jeff Joyce ('10)
Chad Joyce ('11)
Evan Joyce ('11)
Kaitlynn Joyce ('10)
Owen Joyce ('10)
Caroline Joyce ('12)
Carly Joyce ('11)
Cory Joyce ('10)
Mark Joyce ('11)
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Thank you for being a Chico State supporter and fueling our success—not only today, but for generations to come.

—Ahmad Boura, CEO, University Foundation and Vice President for University Advancement