



California State University, Chico

25th Annual Commencement for Master's Graduates

College of Agriculture

College of Behavioral and Social Sciences

College of Business

College of Communication and Education

College of Engineering, Computer Science, and Construction Management

College of Humanities and Fine Arts

College of Natural Sciences

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**Gayle E. Hutchinson, President
California State University, Chico**

On behalf of Chico State, I congratulate you on this milestone in your life. I know we are not celebrating and acknowledging your commencement in a way you or your family expected. You are graduating at a historic moment as the world comes together—or more accurately, spends time apart—to slow the spread of COVID-19. Yet, this pandemic does not detract from your success and the celebration you have earned by receiving your degree.

I am hopeful you will find ways to celebrate with family and friends who have supported you on this remarkable journey. Our University faculty and staff are honoring you from afar for your hard work, dedication, and perseverance. The true reward today is your deeper understanding of self and the world. You have acquired new skills and knowledge, and explored civic and social responsibilities. You have earned the honorable title of college graduate.

Class of 2020, your education has prepared you well for the next phase of your life, personally and professionally. You and your peers are the innovators of tomorrow, solving problems to build a better, healthier, more just, and sustainable future. We have all recently affirmed just how much the world needs you. I encourage you to face each new day with confidence and move forward knowing you can take on whatever tomorrow may bring. You have been tested during your time at Chico State. You have learned to be resilient and be bold!

Stay in touch so we may proudly watch where life's journey takes you. You are and always will be a member of the Chico State family.

Sincerely,

Gayle E. Hutchinson
President, CSU, Chico



Debra Larson
Provost and Vice President for
Academic Affairs

Debra Larson has served as provost and vice president for the Division of Academic Affairs since 2017. The division consists of all seven academic colleges and other academic support units, including Chico State Enterprises, Graduate Studies, Information Resources, International Education and Global Engagement, Meriam Library, Regional & Continuing Education, and Undergraduate Education.

Her academic career began in 1994 after completing her PhD in civil engineering at Arizona State University. She also holds master's and bachelor's degrees in civil engineering from Michigan Technological University. Larson's academic career was preceded by a professional career as a civil and structural engineer in manufacturing, product development, and consulting work within the engineered wood products industry. From 2011–17, Larson was dean of the College of Engineering at California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo. Prior to that, she served as faculty, chair, associate dean, and associate vice provost during 17 years of service at Northern Arizona University.

Larson has received significant recognition during her career, most notably the Excellence in Civil Engineering Education Leadership Award from the American Society of Civil Engineering, distinguished alumni awards from Arizona State University and Michigan Technological University, and service and leadership awards from the Arizona Society of Civil Engineers.



Message from Office of Graduate Studies

Congratulations, graduates! Today you join a select group of only 9 percent of our populace who hold a master's degree. Few achieve this benchmark, because the challenges are formidable: the long hours of studying and writing; the juggling of work, school, and family; the financial costs; and the procrastination that leads to eating mindlessly in front of the open fridge, obsessively cleaning closets, and binge-reading Facebook posts.

We hope you never forget those challenges, because they give testimony to your unusual perseverance, dedication, determination, and sacrifice. They speak to why we are celebrating you tonight—why your family and friends admire you, are inspired by you, and are so proud of you.

Most of all, we hope they are a reminder that you have every reason to feel an immense sense of accomplishment and pride, because mastering master's studies is truly an outstanding achievement.

Today is also an appropriate time for us to thank you for your contributions to the University. You are among the hundreds of graduate students each year who serve

as teaching, research, and lab assistants; as tutors in programs like the Student Learning Center; and as mentors at high-impact events like Town Hall and the Great Debate. Your notable achievements include dozens of grants, scholarly publications, and conference presentations; acceptance into competitive doctoral programs; and important research that fosters scientific and social advancements.

We are confident that the appreciation we feel for you today will strengthen in the years to come as you join other Chico alumni who have established a legacy of personal and professional success.

Commencement is a significant marker of change that we are guessing has you both excited and concerned. For now, though, set aside any anxious thoughts of the future. In the words of the poet Maya Angelou, "Each person deserves a day away in which no problems are confronted, no solutions searched for."

You have earned it. Enjoy this day!

Sharon Barrios, Dean



Slade Giles Graduate Student Speaker

Slade Giles graduated with a Bachelor of Science in bio-psychology and Bachelor of Arts in art studio from the University of California, Santa Barbara with a minor in health and fitness and an emphasis in pre-med. During this time, he served as the University of California ArtsBridge Scholar and was nominated for the Gail Berkus Award for helping develop the Virtual Arts and Design Academy. He was also chair of media relations and a representative for Legislative Council, the Diving Control Board, the University of California Intercollegiate Athletics Policy Board, the UCSB Athletics Policy Committee, the Isla Vista Community Relations Committee, the Student Health Committee, and Associated Students. He obtained a Master of Public Health from Touro University California, where he concurrently performed neuroscience research on triple transgenic models of Alzheimer's disease and served on the advisory board to develop the MPH program. While on his path to become a physician, he came up with an idea to change healthcare in the United States on a national scale and decided to

study business as well. Today he receives his Master of Business Administration with an emphasis in enterprise information systems.

During his time at Chico State, he served as president of the Graduate Business Association, the vice president of the SAP Club, and the MBA liaison for the Council of Graduate Students while graduating from Leadership Redding, earning Jones Valley Fire Department Firefighter of the Year for 2018, and battling cancer that metastasized and resulted in surgery and chemotherapy. After winning first place in Chico State's Elevator Pitch Challenge, Giles is now working on several ideas to change healthcare. His passion is to perpetually build his community as long as he can. You can find out more at gf.melu/wcrr2h.



Ashlyn Weaver Graduate Student Speaker

Ashlyn Ku'uleialoha Weaver is a second-generation Native Hawaiian born and raised in Northern California. Her commitment to preserve indigenous Hawaiian and Pacific Islander history and culture within her academics has been a driving force behind her research and master's thesis.

As an undergraduate, Weaver sought broad experiences such as interning with Hawai'i Conservation on the island of Maui to teaching Hawaiian culture and language to the Pacific Islander youth within her community. Through these hands-on experiences, Weaver has been given opportunities to work closely with Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander communities and scholars, which helped shape her perceptions of cultural awareness and indigenous rights.

During her time in the master's program, Weaver became a specialist in Native Hawaiian and Indigenous Californian intercultural encounters and genealogies pre- and post- California's 1849 Gold Rush. She has also completed internships with the Meriam Library Special Collections and University Archives, and the Northeastern Information Center, and served as a Native American Fellow at the Peabody Essex Museum in Salem, Massachusetts. Weaver has also served as president of the Anthropology Graduate Student Association and the Pacific Islanders' Club.

While her primary research interests include the intersection of Hawaiian history, Indigenous studies, and Pacific Islander relations, Weaver is excited to start the next chapter of her career. She is looking forward to creating networks of social change within California's Pacific Islander communities and to provide platforms for Indigenous voices to be heard.



ChengTu Hsieh Honorary Marshal

ChengTu Hsieh received his BA in physical education and MA and PhD in biomechanics. He has been a professor in the Department of Kinesiology at Chico State since 2008, and he teaches courses in biomechanics and statistics. Hsieh's research interests include sports performance analysis and pedagogical research in the field of biomechanics totaling 15 publications with his colleagues in recent years. With his passion for teaching and learning in biomechanics, he has been invited as a speaker for several international biomechanics conferences. Under the teacher-scholar model, Hsieh and his colleague secured approximately \$65,000 in internal funding to purchase and maintain state-of-the-art biomechanical analysis equipment to provide rich active learning opportunities. He promotes an environment where teaching fosters scholarship in both undergraduate and graduate students. Hsieh believes guiding students to do their own research is

the most meaningful part of his job because he knows they are learning much more than what classroom instruction alone can provide. During the last decade, Hsieh has successfully mentored numerous undergraduate and graduate students in their independent research projects. He and his students have presented at regional, national, and international outlets and published 13 journal and scientific proceeding papers. Hsieh was the recipient of the Professional Achievement Honor in 2016, which recognizes exemplary teacher-scholar achievement on campus.



Sue Steiner Honorary Marshal

Sue Steiner, professor of social work and MSW program director, came to Chico State in 2007 after teaching for many years at Arizona State University. Following completion of her MSW from San Francisco State University in 1986, she worked as a social worker in the fields of community organizing, environmental justice, and economic development. Growing up in a family of teachers influenced her to return to school for her PhD in social welfare at the University of Washington, and her move to Chico in search of a university with a stronger focus on teaching.

In her social work practice, teaching, and research, Steiner has had a focus on building community and working for social, political, economic, and cultural justice. As part of these efforts, she has helped develop and run two nonprofit organizations in Butte County. The Northern California Counties Time Bank is a service exchange program where community members provide services for

each other for hours instead of money. Home & Heart is a home sharing program that facilitates placement of housing insecure and homeless college students and Camp Fire survivors with older adults who want to age in place and need some help around the house. Both programs focus on building community, reducing isolation, and helping people get their basic needs met.

Steiner is an active scholar, having published more than 20 peer-reviewed articles and two books. She loves working with and mentoring students, and has a particular interest in supporting students from traditionally underrepresented populations.

Special Recognition and Awards

College of Behavioral and Social Sciences

Mai Kue Her	Outstanding Social Science Graduate Student
Mai Kue Her	Social Science Alumni Scholarship (2018–19)
Morgan Pauline January	Social Science Teaching Award Spring 2019
Andres Urzua	Outstanding MSW Student

College of Business

Slade Giles	MBA Professors Excellence Award
Tanya Marie Torst	MBA Outstanding Academic Achievement Award

College of Communication and Education

Melanie Anne Funk	Outstanding Communication Studies Teaching Associate
Alexis Nicole Martinez	Outstanding First Year Communication Sciences and Disorders Graduate Student 2018–19
Katrina Janelle Myers	Outstanding Kinesiology Graduate Student
Katrina Janelle Myers	American Kinesiology Association Outstanding Graduate Student 2020
Tyler John Reilly	Outstanding Communication Studies Graduate Student
Tyler John Reilly	Outstanding Communication Studies Thesis Award
Sydney Mariah Rivera	Outstanding Second Year Communication Sciences and Disorders Graduate Student 2019–20
Jeannine Katherine Worley	Outstanding Communication Studies Teaching Associate

College of Humanities and Fine Arts

Ian Taylor Allen	Outstanding Graduate Student in English
Monica Lopez Acosta	Outstanding Graduate Student in Teaching International Languages

College of Natural Sciences

Harpreet Kaur Batther	Excellence in Graduate Research in Geosciences
Katherine Loretta Jensen	Outstanding Nutritional Science Teaching Assistant
Alexis Rebekah Lopez	Excellence in Graduate Research in Geosciences
Marta Tabatabai	Outstanding Nutritional Science Graduate Student Leader
Hannah Spalding Weinberger	Excellence in Graduate Research in Environmental Science

OFFICE OF GRADUATE STUDIES

Outstanding Master's Project Award

Emily Huso English

Outstanding Master's Thesis Award

Tirumular Chandrasekaran Narayanan Art

Academic and Performance Award

Stephanie Parker Biological Sciences

Graduate Equity Fellows

Dayne Anthony Gradone Anthropology
Kathleen Marie Johnson Nutritional Science—Nutrition Education Option
Noel Marie Jones Anthropology
Gardenia Ariana Juarez Kinesiology
Gustavo Antonio Martir Luna Psychology—Psychological Science Option
Alison Muang Pou Saechao History
Cory Lynn Tondreau Psychology—Psychological Science Option
Ashlyn Ku'uleialoha Weaver Anthropology

Research and Conference Award Recipients

Harpreet Kaur Batther Geosciences
Briana Marie Howenstein Communication Sciences and Disorders
Katherine Loretta Jensen Nutritional Science—Nutrition Education Option
Michelle Raeanne Johnson Psychology—Psychological Science Option
Supreet Kaur Communication Sciences and Disorders
Payton Charles Laurie Biological Sciences
Alexis Rebekah Lopez Geosciences
Hannah Rose Metzger Biological Sciences
Argelia Estefania Ramirez Public Administration—
Health Administration Option
Vanessa Claire Reeves Anthropology
Sydney Mariah Rivera Communication Sciences and Disorders
Wolfgang D. Rogle Public Administration
Alexander David Ryll Anthropology
Tays Ribeiro Sannizzaro Psychology—Psychological Science Option
Caitlyn Rose Trinca Nutritional Science—Nutrition Education Option
Ashlyn Ku'uleialoha Weaver Anthropology
Hannah Spalding Weinberger Environmental Science

CSU Statewide Student Research Competition Delegates

Dayne Anthony Gradone Anthropology
Payton Charles Laurie Biological Sciences
Stephanie Parker Biological Sciences
Cory Lynn Tondreau Psychology—Psychological Science Option

Graduates with Distinction

A master's degree is awarded with distinction to students who have earned a grade point average of 3.9 or higher (on a scale where A=4.0) in all approved program coursework and satisfied criteria established by the graduate committee of the program offering the degree.

Master of Arts

Nora A. Aguilar McKay	Education
Ian Taylor Allen	English
Janae M. Alvarez	Communication Sciences and Disorders
Grace Danielle Ayala	Communication Sciences and Disorders
Kristin Lynn Bill	Communication Sciences and Disorders
Katelynne Nicole Buechner	Communication Sciences and Disorders
Daniel William Cahill	Interdisciplinary Studies
Sarah Loree Cruz	Communication Sciences and Disorders
Morgan Georgiann Darr	Education
Miranda May Ehlers	Anthropology
James Saylor Flett	Recreation Administration
Jacqueline Lorna Galimany Skupham	Anthropology
Andrew Edward Gates	English
Tara Cay Hepworth	Communication Sciences and Disorders
Egypt Dominique Howard	Social Science
Morgan Pauline January	Social Science
Noel Marie Jones	Anthropology
Sydney Lauren Jones	Communication Sciences and Disorders
Sara Patricia Kraatz	Education
Nancy Iliana Larios Pelayo	Teaching International Languages
Madison Marie Leam	Communication Sciences and Disorders
Monica Lopez Acosta	Teaching International Languages
Alexis Nicole Martinez	Communication Sciences and Disorders
Lindsay Nicole Mazur	Kinesiology—Athletic Training Education Option
Rachel McBride-Praetorius	Social Science
Miranda Faith McCoy	Communication Sciences and Disorders
Melanie F. McLaughlin	English
Alexis Faustine Menchaca	Education
Cecily Anne Merwin	Anthropology
Dori Eileen Moura	Teaching International Languages
Katrina Janelle Myers	Kinesiology
Aurea Sofia Bolanos Perea	Political Science
Tyler John Reilly	Communication Studies
Sydney Mariah Rivera	Communication Sciences and Disorders
Alison Muang Pou Saechao	History
Amy Frances Shoff	Communication Sciences and Disorders
Sydney Justine Stinger	Communication Sciences and Disorders
Doua Thao	Psychology—Applied Psychology Option

Master of Arts Continued

Cory Lynn Tondreau
 Leah Marie Tray
 Antonio Uriostegui
 Ashlyn Ku'uleialoha Weaver
 Joyce Margaret Wilson

Psychology—Psychological Science Option
 Anthropology
 Communication Sciences and Disorders
 Anthropology
 Communication Sciences and Disorders

Master of Business Administration

Brendan Patrick Coakley
 Garrett Michael Duarte
 Barbara Lynn Johnson
 Tanya Marie Torst
 Natalie Rica Valenzuela

Project Management Option

Master of Fine Arts

Hope M. Blackwell

Art

Master of Public Administration

McKena Rose Barker
 Argelia Estefania Ramirez
 Wolfgang D. Rougle

Health Administration Option

Master of Science

Jessica Jane Arcado
 Jared Scott Axen
 Harpreet Kaur Batther
 Chelsye Danielle Beggs
 Morgan Taylor Daffron
 Jesse Lee Downard
 Julia Susanna Ferré
 Riannon Elizabeth Finneman
 Hayley Anne Heino
 Alison Marie Kirishian
 Payton Charles Laurie
 Gabrielle Lea Lofink
 Alexis Rebekah Lopez
 Danielle Ann Martin
 Shana Lee Parker
 Gary William Pope
 Alison Leigh Pratt
 Max Anne Zachai

Psychology
 Nursing—Nurse Educator Option
 Geosciences
 Agricultural Education
 Psychology
 Psychology
 Psychology
 Psychology
 Nutritional Science—Nutrition Education Option
 Psychology
 Biological Sciences
 Nutritional Science—Nutrition Education Option
 Geosciences
 Nutritional Science—Nutrition Education Option
 Nursing—Nurse Educator Option
 Mathematics Education
 Psychology
 Psychology

Master of Social Work

Bobby Sue Althaus
Michelle Denise Arevalo-Diaz
Gabrielle Elizabeth Banathy
Autumn Michelle Brock
Campbell Dawson
Chelsea Kay Duncan
Mark Ebaló
Sandra Dayani Gomez
Gini Lehrman Gustafson
Wyntur Destiny Brooke Henderson
Vanessa Hernandez
Harpreet Kaur
Kimberly Cherie Kinnear
Amy Marie Lagorio
Natalie K. Lowden
Ivan Martinez Gonzalez
Melissa Melendrez
Fiona Mulvena
Yadira Nieto
Stephanie Nicole Price
Ariana S. Ramos
Jessica Ridgley
Juan Enrique Rivera
Katie Ann Schoonover
Grace Scott
Vanessa Kim Van Tran
Maria Amelia Villeda
Kosue Yang