

FALL CONVOCAATION
President Gayle Hutchinson
August 22, 2019

PRESIDENT GAYLE HUTCHINSON:

I love the energy in this room. Welcome back, Chico State. We have missed you. It has been a short summer but a productive summer, and I'm always excited to see when everyone returns, so welcome back.

It's going to be long today. I'm just giving you a disclaimer up front. I know some of you have to go, but I encourage all of you to stay and the reason it is long is because I will be unavailing the strategic plan and the draft of the master plan. As we get through things, I will speed along as quickly as I can, as will my colleagues, but I truly encourage you to stay.

It's my honor to be here with you today as we prepare to embark on another semester. Fall 2019 will be filled with promise and aspiration, as well as continued healing and recovery for our families, friends, and communities impacted by the Camp Fire.

We began last year's convocation with a moment of silence for the victims of the Carr Fire and other fires that raged through the summer of 2018. Little did we know what lay ahead for Butte County just three months later. Today, let's remember those who lost their lives in last year's fires, and also honor the resilience of survivors, strength of community, and generosity of neighbors that emerged in response to this unprecedented disaster. Please, a moment of silence.

Thank you.

Chico State has been, is now, and will remain a steadfast and engaged partner in the recovery, reimagining, and rebuilding of community.

To all of you, thank you for volunteering, giving, and contributing through our service learning projects, civic engagement, research, and creative activity. These qualities align with our mission to serve the North State and are consistent with our Chico State values. We are the Wildcat family.

It is now my pleasure to acknowledge University leadership and leaders in our community who are with us today. Please stand as your name is called and be recognized. I would like to introduce the cabinet. Please stand.

Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Debra Larson
Acting Vice President for Student Affairs Sandy Parsons-Ellis
Vice President for University Advancement Ahmad Boura
President for Business and Finance Ann Sherman
Chief of Staff Brooke Banks

Now I'll introduce the academic senate officers.

Chiara Ferrari, chair
Mahalley Allen
Betsy Boyd
Rick Ford
Marianne Paiva
Timothy Sistrunk
Jennifer Underwood

Please give them a round of applause.

The Provost's Academic Council, please stand. The PAC as they are known is comprised of academic deans, vice provosts, AVPs, Senate Chair, and other Academic Affairs administrative staff.

[APPLAUSE]

And student affair directors, I know you have a council as well. SALT, please stand. If you are on the advancement team, please stand. Thank you.

[APPLAUSE]

And would the cabinet in business and finance, please stand. Thank you. We lead, and we move the institution forward. Also joining us today, we have:

Chico State alumni organization
Parent Advisory Council
Chico State Enterprises Board
University Foundation Board
Gateway Science Museum Commission and Advisory Board
Janet Turner Print Museum Board of Directors
Valene L. Smith Anthropology Museum Board
Chico Chamber of Commerce
Downtown Chico Business Association, represented by Executive Director Melanie Bassett

[APPLAUSE]

Some of our city and county officials, we have:

Mayor Randall Stone
Mark Orme, City Manager for the City of Chico
Scott Huber, Chico City Council member
Debra Lucero, Butte County Supervisor, District 2, and
Mary Sakuma, Butte County Superintendent of School

From the state government, we have:

Braden Pisani, district representative for Assemblyman James Gallagher.

WELCOME REMARKS

Faculty, staff, and community leaders will now share brief statements of welcome. First, I would like to introduce Mayor Randall Stone. He has been our mayor since December of 2018. He also serves on the board of the directors of the league of California Cities and teaches “Real Estate Finance and Investments” in the College of Business here at Chico State. He and his wife, Krista, also a Chico State alum, are raising two sons, Rhys, 6, and Karden, 1. Please welcome the mayor.

MAYOR STONE:

Welcome back. Thank you very much for the opportunity to speak here. Along with the University, our community has been navigating the impact from the Camp Fire that we mentioned earlier, and our residents have responded with love and support. I’m not here to talk about the Camp Fire as much as I’m here to thank all of you. Our collective response to assist in the recovery is complete and comprehensive and still needed . . . To that end, I usually start my semester giving advice to my students, and I want to give you advice as I hope you will pass it along to your students. We know everybody is asking for something. When I went to school, my dad said, ‘Get to know your elected officials.’ I said, ‘Dad, they don’t want to hear from me. Why would I bother them?’ and he [said] back angrily, ‘Just do it, all right.’ I said, ‘Why?’ He said, ‘Because you don’t want to be the person who is constantly asking for something.’ Trevor sent me an email asking how he could help. I am never going to forget that. I know when he calls about something in his neighborhood, a crime problem, I’m going to respond because I will remember his name. Get to know your elected officials, ask how you can help. You have done much of that, and we need more.

HUTCHINSON:

Next up, Chiara Ferrari, Academic Senate Chair since fall 2019, Associate Professor in Media Arts, Design, and Technology at Chico State since 2007. [She] earned her PhD from UCLA in Cinema and Media Studies.

Please welcome our Academic Senate chair.

FERRARI:

Welcome back, everyone. You know what I’m going to talk about. The statement signed by President Hutchinson in 2017 began with the following words, ‘Inclusive communities of excellence are a hallmark of Chico, founded on principles of shared governance and the belief that together we are stronger.’ In the face of last year’s unprecedented tragedy and challenge, we have indeed demonstrated together we are stronger. I want to take a moment to, not only welcome everyone back, but also to remind us how

shared governance is the indispensable pillar that built our strength and our resilience. Through shared governance, we give voice to our community. Through governance we respect differences and perhaps more importantly, through shared governance, we advocate and fight for equity.

I want to invite everyone to join me, President Hutchinson, and all of our senators as we recommit this academic year as the glue that makes us a better university and a stronger community. Have a wonderful year.

[APPLAUSE]

HUTCHINSON:

I couldn't agree more.

Our CFA president is Timothy Sistrunk, president of the Chico Chapter of the California Faculty Association and teaches environmental history as a member of the Department of History. [He] welcomes faculty, staff, and students on behalf of the Labor Council of all the unions of the University. Please a welcome for Dr. Sistrunk.

SISTRUNK:

It is my honor to welcome you all back. It is important to recognize that we're united by a common purpose, so our students can meet the challenges and opportunities that the future offers to all of us. We face daunting questions that will require all of our different capacities to address. We will all rely on each other more intensely than we have in earlier times, and this will require us to communicate with each other and learn from one another. The University is dedicated to facilitating different perspectives, maintaining the integrity of the different disciplines. We will need to listen to a diversity of voices, so they are all animated by social justice. This is a great undertaking of our community. Our future on the planet will require all of our understanding and this pursuit of equity. I look forward to discovering how we can work together to uncover all of the potential of the common future together.

[APPLAUSE]

HUTCHINSON:

Thank you. Well said. It is now my honor to introduce you the Associated Students President Trevor Guthrie

From Manteca, California. He is a senior majoring in political science. He was elected AS president in spring 2019, and he is a member of Phi Delta Theta. Please welcome, Trevor Guthrie.

[APPLAUSE]

GUTHRIE:

Thank you everyone for allowing me to be before you today, and I want to thank President Hutchinson for the opportunity to do so. Before we begin, I would like to introduce you to special people in this room: the 16 other elected officers that make up the Associated Student government officers, if you could stand, and if we could give them a huge round of applause for all of the work they do.

[APPLAUSE]

Not everyone has the opportunity to address faculty and staff here at Chico State, so I'm very excited to share important things with you today. We are in a time where students face unprecedented challenges. We live in a time of political uncertainty, where communities of students don't feel safe, where 41.6 percent of students don't know where the next meal is coming from, and 10.9 percent of students are sleeping in their car or on a couch. It is imperative that students receive the care and support from faculty and staff. The legacy of Chico State cannot endure without all of you paying close attention to and amplifying the culture of caring, so our university lifts its values connecting students, affirming them, and respecting them. I look forward to working with all of you this upcoming year. I know together we will make a difference. Thank you.

[APPLAUSE]

HUTCHINSON:

Trevor, well said. It is my honor to introduce Staff Council Vice Chair Rachelle Sousa. Come on up.

Tawnie Peterson, chair of staff council, is a little under the weather today so we are inviting Vice Chair Sousa to speak on her behalf. She is the credential analyst in the College of Communication and Education responsible for processing all education-related credentials. She has been on campus for eight years. She has been involved with Staff Council for six years. She served as Ways and Means Committee chair for three years before becoming vice chair three years ago. Please welcome, Rachelle.

[APPLAUSE]

SOUSA:

Thank you, President Hutchinson. Even though Tawnie isn't here, she is here, but she isn't speaking. She did promise me this would be intimidating.

[LAUGHTER]

Here we go. Chico Staff Council was established over 50 years ago. We get calls from other CSU's to implement staff council. We are proud to be setting the example. This year, we have ongoing activities starting next week with active tables on campus. Thank you for taking the time to volunteer. We will be continuing the Koffee and Kudos, the Joy of Giving program, and we'll have the luncheon in the spring. Someone last year noticed that STAC spelled backwards spells 'cats,' which is appropriate being the Wildcats! We are looking forward to a great year, and thank you on behalf of Staff Council.

[APPLAUSE]

HUTCHINSON:

Thank you. We look forward to another outstanding year for the Staff Council. It is my distinct honor to introduce to you Tribal Council Chairman Dennis Ramirez.

He has served as chairman for the Mechoopda Indian Tribe for 14 years. First elected in 2007 and recently re-elected for two more years. Chairman Ramirez retired from Glenn County Public Works after serving the people of Glenn County for 25 years. He remains strongly committed to providing education, housing, and healthcare for the members of the Mechoopda Tribe.

He works tirelessly to build a strong ethical foundation, adhere to sound tribal laws and policies, and believes that accountability is instrumental in achieving tribal self-sufficiency. He is serving on the Board of Directors of the Northern Valley Indian Health Consortium, one of the largest health organizations committed to serving the underserved population of Northern California. Please join me in welcoming chairman Ramirez.

[APPLAUSE]

RAMIREZ:

I'm blessed to be here. It is always a pleasure to talk a little bit about the tribe and share some [history]. Some of you may know a little bit about the history, some of you may not. I will share a little bit more about it, but I will say a prayer in honor of my ancestors, so if you don't mind, will you stand, and stand for those that can't? So, after each prayer, we say 'oh,' and that means acceptance, it means amen, that means, like I said, we accept. So let me hear it, so my ancestors hear it.

Let us pray.

[speaking in native language]

RAMIREZ:

Great man, good spirit, you that live in the flower land of heaven. Give us your love. Give us your protection throughout the day. We are all here together as one. Oh. Thank you.

You can be seated. Like I said, I'm always honored and blessed to be here at Chico State. I thank President Hutchinson for her strong commitments that she has gone on to work with the tribe. She has been to my office many times. We've worked out a great MOA for Chico State and it is one of the strongest ones we have had in years, and it started before me.

The land Chico State sits on will always be the land of our ancestors. I'm glad this is an education institute. Our ancestors were teachers too, in a different way. As for Chico State and other institutes, students have a purpose and you as professors to bring that out and excite their learning. Students have a five-year plan, check it every year, so you can have a life you desire. Hone in today and happen tomorrow and don't leave your dreams unfulfilled. Thank you, President Hutchinson for your leadership, working with the tribe, and our new MOA. Your leadership with the staff and the students.

I have a gift for President Hutchinson. It represents friendship, and it was made by a tribal member who is also an artist. So, Gayle, I want to thank you from the bottom of my heart for being our friend and working with us, and we look forward to bringing more—and it is happening—more Native American students to Chico State.

[APPLAUSE]

HUTCHINSON:

Thank you, Dennis. I think we're off to a strong start. So, we will keep forging ahead.

Thank you all, for your leadership and service. Your remarks remind us of the importance of working together sustaining a culture of caring as we solve problems and build solutions to the current challenges that we face.

In 2018, we endured great tragedy, and we also discovered a resilience and determination in ourselves and our community. We arrive here today strong and with renewed commitment to not just words but to actions. We have said that 2018 broke our hearts, but it did not break our spirit.

As you know, immediately following the Camp Fire, we established the Wildcats Rise Community Liaison position in the Office of Civic Engagement, and the role has been filled brilliantly by Megan Kurtz these past eight months. Megan refers to herself as a 'good neighbor.' Stand up, good neighbor.

[APPLAUSE]

She has been present and of service to the communities affected by the Camp Fire, demonstrating the University's commitment to partnering with community rebuilding efforts.

She represents Chico State as co-chair of the Camp Fire Long Term Recovery Group, joining other community representatives and government officials to support the rebuilding process and help residents navigate the complex, and at times frustrating, pathways as they look for answers.

Megan is our chief liaison officer who communicates and coordinates Chico State activities with the various agencies leading the long-term recovery efforts in Butte County. She also serves as a resource for out-of-the-area researchers and agencies.

This summer, I transferred Megan from the Office of Civic Engagement to the Office of the President in order to punctuate the importance of her work. When she is not in the community, you will find her in Kendall Hall Room 105. Going forward, I know our involvement in recovery work will continue to grow. This is where I need your attention and help.

Recently, I asked the Provost and Acting VP for Student Affairs to appoint Camp Fire liaisons in each of the colleges and appropriate departments. We may think about it with Associated Students and the other divisions. The idea is that the unit liaison will work closely with the faculty, staff, and students in their areas to encourage participation in and collect information about the recovery work that we are doing. The goal is to capture a clear picture of the work being done and to coordinate these activities and connections between campus and county efforts.

To that end, we have established, with guidance from Meriam Library Dean Patrick Newell, a Camp Fire database to be shared campus-wide this fall. A list of college and department liaisons will be available here, as well as grant opportunities, current and completed research, academic lessons, service activities, and the work of visiting campuses. The only way this will work though is if you commit to participate in this effort, and if college and department liaisons work closely with Megan, who will convene them once a month, or as needed.

I know we are making significant contributions to the recovery efforts right now, so please keep Megan and your local liaison informed. I believe that this database will serve as an important tool in helping to better connect efforts, strengthen activities, reduce duplicity, and use resources effectively. It also will help us keep an historical record of our progress in hopes of helping others in the future.

If you want to learn how to get involved, I encourage you to join the Teaching the Camp Fire Faculty Work Group sponsored by the Office of Civic Engagement. If you are in this group, stand up. I know you are here. Where are you?

[APPLAUSE]

Thank you. This faculty group has established a website that includes ideas and resources to help you think about how to engage your students in service-learning projects and research and creative activity. One of the work group's most important contributions so far has been the development of a set of ethical guidelines for conducting Camp Fire work. These guidelines are being shared with campus, visiting researchers and agencies, and will be available to everyone on the Teaching the Camp Fire website.

Playing another big role is Eli Goodsell. Special shout out to Eli. He and his wife are brand-new parents.

[APPLAUSE]

Playing another important role in recovery efforts is Eli Goodsell and his team at the Big Chico Creek Ecological Reserve. The reserve is planning and implementing fire mitigation projects on more than 700 acres of the reserve, including prescribed fire partnerships with Cal Fire and local nonprofits. In addition, goats have been deployed to reduce fire fuel, giving students an opportunity to analyze different fuel-reduction techniques.

Pictured here is Mitch Bamford, a master's student in Biology and a land steward at the reserve. Since working at the reserve, Mitch has attained wildland firefighter II qualifications and has participated in burns for ecological enhancement and fire mitigation.

Another key part of the work being done at the Reserve is the fire-wise curriculum for the Outdoor Education Program through a California Climate Investments grant with Cal Fire. The program uses Chico State interns to run education experiences for more than 1,300 local grade-school students annually. This year, the program hosted 30 fourth graders from Paradise Elementary at the Butte Creek Ecological Preserve, which was completely burned after the Camp Fire. The students observed abundant wildlife and the vigorous regrowth of diverse flora; they learned about resiliency after fire and the role that fire plays in the natural environment. For this group of students who witnessed first-hand the effects of a devastating fire, it brought hope and a sense of renewal. My guess is that it may have opened a lens to their future careers.

A few more projects on the horizon:

The Honey Run Covered Bridge was completely lost in the Camp Fire. Fortuitously, just weeks before the disaster, computer animation and game development used a 3D lidar to gather point data of the Honey Run Bridge to create a virtual reality experience.

This detailed digital information will be used in the rebuilding of the historic Butte County landmark to ensure fidelity with the original and retention of the bridge's historical status.

Chris Souder, chair of the Construction Management Department, is serving as the project manager on the rebuilding effort with Quincy Engineering—and its Chico State alumni—as designer. Construction management will plan the bridge construction and build the 900-square-foot caretaker home. I'm so proud that we will play a role in rebuilding this beloved landmark.

[VIDEO & APPLAUSE]

Absolutely incredible that weeks before faculty and students were out there collecting the data and it is going to serve us well.

A project that I find very exciting is the Resiliency Collaboration of the North State, an emerging plan to create a connected network of centers focused on establishing a robust and resilient North State. Both Megan and Eli are deeply involved in creating the framework. Under discussion are:

- A Resiliency Center, which would be based at Chico State, to provide a physical space open to the community to facilitate conversations and events, secure resources, implement projects, and tell stories focused on resilience in order to support a thriving North State.
- The Big Chico Creek Ecological Reserve, with the purpose to preserve and steward critical habitat for environmental resiliency.
- Third, The Learning and Resiliency Research Center, a partnership between Butte College and Chico State, to provide an academic focus on resiliency and job training related to the recovery efforts;
- Four, a wellness initiative, sponsored by Enloe Medical Center looking to partner with others looking at mental wellbeing.

One of the primary purposes of the Chico State Resiliency Center is to establish a sense of place for the collaborative work being done in the area of resiliency around the state. It will be a place where the work of creating a blanket of resilience can be woven together from all pockets of the community. Really finding a way to bring all aspects of recovery together. I look forward to this going forward. Megan, thank you. Eli, thank you.

Academic Year 18–19 was filled with incredible heartache and loss, and I get choked up thinking about it. What I realize is the unparalleled commitment and perseverance through extremely difficult times. So, when I sat down to reflect on the year and assemble my thoughts for today, I was truly awestruck by what Chico State accomplished in spring 2019. Here are some highlights:

Once again, *Money* magazine named Chico State to its 'Best Colleges in America' list, where Chico State appears at No. 56, up from No. 62 last year. Money weighed more than 19,000 data points, including tuition, family borrowing, and career earnings to determine their rankings of 744 universities. Again, of which we're number 56.

As you can see behind me, Chico State continues to earn recognitions for its accessibility, affordability, and transformative student experiences.

This year Chico State was ranked No. 2 in the nation for the number of yearlong study abroad participants when compared with other masters-granting institutions by the Institute of International Education Open Doors Report. For international students coming to Chico State, student applications increased by 30 percent over last year, bringing in a new class of master's students in computer science, which was re-launched this fall.

[APPLAUSE]

Coverage of the Camp Fire has earned North State Public Radio regional recognition, and in June a national Edward R. Murrow Award, one of the most prestigious awards in broadcast news. Honored in the Small Market Radio category, NSPR won for "After Paradise," and its continuing coverage of the

Camp Fire. The program was created by Tess Vigeland and hosted by reporters Sarah Bohannon and Marc Albert. We are so very proud of NSPR. The station also celebrated its 50th year on the air this past spring.

[APPLAUSE]

University Communications was also recognized for good work related to the Camp Fire. Acknowledged for tremendous work under intense pressure, the communications team won a Bronze Award for Strategic Communications in the Issues and Crisis Management category in a competition with 611 Organizations and over 2,800 entries from over 20 countries, 20 countries. Additionally, the University won a second Circle of Excellence award, a Bronze Award for Photography for the 'Restless Dreamers' feature in *Chico Statements*. I want to say congratulations to the communications team. Nicely done. These are important articles and information to get out. Let's give them one more hand.

[APPLAUSE]

We are comprised of great faculty and staff.

The University's Faculty Recognition and Support Committee selected six colleagues as Outstanding Faculty Award Recipients. Our 2018–19 honorees are:

- Outstanding Faculty Service: Dr. Jeffery Livingston, History
- Outstanding Professor: Dr. Eric Houk, Agricultural Economics
- Outstanding Research Mentor: William Nitzky, Anthropology
- Outstanding Teacher: Dr. Erik Wasinger, Chemistry and Biochemistry
- Outstanding Lecturer: Sarah Pape, English
- Outstanding Academic Advisor: Cindy Ratekin, Child Development.

Please a round of applause. Excellent. Just excellent.

[APPLAUSE]

On the staff side, Staff Excellence Award honors for 2018–19 went to:

- Employee of the Year: Kathy Castleberry, College of Behavioral and Social Sciences
- Customer Service Award: Flora Nunn, Meriam Library
- Staff Safety Award: Keith Crawford, Adventure Outings
- Wildcat Spirit Award: Katie Sibley, Facilities Management and Services.

Please let's recognize them.

OK, and we have newly tenured and promoted faculty among us and please, roll that video.

VIDEO

You know how hard it is to get tenure promoted, so one more time for these folks.

[APPLAUSE]

Congratulations. It is so wonderful to see your names up on the screen.

Now, I am going to ask the new faculty members to please stand, so we can recognize you, please stand.

[APPLAUSE]

Thank you. They are a wild bunch. I met them this morning. Our new colleagues come to us from Carnegie Mellon, Stanford, UCLA, John Hopkins, and the University of Tehran, to name just a few. There are four Chico State alumni among you. I hope you take a moment during the reception to reach out and let them know we are family and what that is all about.

On the staff side, Human Resources filled 172 positions in the 2018–2019 academic year, 53 were filled by current employees, which is a promotion rate of 31 percent.

An additional 43 staff were converted from temporary status to either probationary or permanent status in the last academic year.

[APPLAUSE]

Congratulations. And the reason we're all here, our students.

We welcome to campus this fall an incoming class of 2,500 freshman and 1,800 transfer students. Our total headcount is 17,200, as of August 6; or a total of 16,150 FTES. As we endeavor to serve North State communities, it is rewarding to find that of the new transfer students, 39 percent are from our North State. Applications are up this year. We expect to welcome 100 more transfer students than last fall. The blend of students fluctuates to meet the needs of students who have the desire and qualifications to attend Chico State. Our 2019 head count is a reduction of 266 students, so we are down enrollment 1.5 percent overall, but we're holding our own.

[APPLAUSE]

Moving on to Athletics.

Claire Wayne was selected to receive the CCAA's Impact Award, which recognizes a single CCAA student-athlete who has exemplified leadership through participation in community service and engagement activities while maintaining dedication to academics and athletics. Claire was also recognized in spring 2019 with the Outstanding Student Leader Award, the Female Scholar Athlete of the Year award, and the Mac Martin Excellence in Leadership Award. A few highlights of her achievement include: 2019 captain of the softball team, volunteer for World Central Kitchen during the Camp Fire, and assisting in the donation of more than 1,600 items to support the Hungry Wildcat Food Pantry. We are extremely proud of Claire; she is a model student-athlete.

[APPLAUSE]

All right, Anita. Where are you? Stand up, Anita.

[APPLAUSE]

Anita Barker was named Athletic Director of the Year for the second time by the National Association of Collegiate Directors of Athletics. Anita is a leadership exemplar who places student success at the center of her responsibilities. She continues to lead a successful Athletics program, which this year earned a conference high of 82 academic honors. Congratulations.

[APPLAUSE]

The men's cross country team won its 17th straight CCAA title extending its conference record for most consecutive titles in any sport and third straight West Regional title and 14th in the past 17 years, while the women's team won its 11th straight CCAA title and 15th in the past 17 years. The men qualified for the NCAA Championships for the 20th year in a row, finishing 7th, and the women qualified for the 19th consecutive season, finishing 8th.

[APPLAUSE]

The men's track and field team also took home the CCAA title, winning for the fourth straight season and 15th time in the last 16 years.

In alumni sports news, Chris Wondolowski, a Chico State men's soccer star of the early 2000s, broke Major League Soccer's career goal-scoring record and was inducted into the California Collegiate Athletic Association Hall of Fame earlier this summer. One of six inductees, Wondo, as he is affectionately known, became the first Chico State athlete honored in the hall of fame's five-year history. He has now racked up 154 career goals, surpassing the previous record of 145. Let's hear it for Chris.

[APPLAUSE]

Dr. Ben Van Dusen has been awarded a National Science Foundation HSI grant for a total of \$2,050,450 over four years. The Improving Undergraduate STEM Education grant builds on Chico State's current efforts to support faculty in transforming STEM courses to improve the success of all students. The new project is a collaboration between Chico State, Texas State, and University of Colorado Denver to examine the incentives and barriers to HSI faculty adapting or developing curriculum that improve learning and equity in STEM courses. To increase HSI faculty's ability to engage in this kind of important work, the team will use their findings to lead a series of national workshops and perform foundational research into stereotype threat and instrument bias.

Along with the NSF grant that created the Chico STEM Connections Collaborative, the University has now been awarded more than \$6 million in HSI grants. The CSC2 grant, under the direction of Director Paul Villegas and Associate Director Lupe Jimenez, is going into its third year. It supports Chico State faculty in implementing research-based practices into their courses to improve student outcomes. The new grant will support faculty across the country in developing and implementing these same kinds of curriculum.

Well done, Dr. Van Dusen. It is rewarding to see Chico State at the forefront of this important HSI work.

Are you in the room? There he is.

[APPLAUSE]

When registerednursing.org released its list of 2019 Best Online RN to BSN Programs in California, Chico State's School of Nursing was named No. 3 in the state. Chico's RN to BSN program has been offered for more than 20 years. It prioritizes placing students in clinical work where they live, keeping them in their own counties. This enables the program to help students in hands-on training while they're learning, applying everything . . . from their online education. A big congratulations to nursing.

[APPLAUSE]

In April, *Transform Tomorrow | The Campaign for Chico State* transitioned to the public phase with a celebration on the lawn of Kendall Hall. The total amount raised from 2012–2019 is more than \$80.5 million, well on the way to our goal of \$100 million. This fiscal year, which ended June 30, 2019, Vice President Ahmad Boura reported raising \$14.3 million. I have strong praise for our advancement team, development directors, and deans who cultivate relationships with benefactors and facilitate giving opportunities, daily. Donors are primarily supporting family endowments, athletics, buildings, and facilities. They are also supporting our students.

In total, 19,307 donors made 41,300 gifts across the campus.

The more we tell our story of commitment to student success; the more we tell our story of leading-edge learning environments; the more we tell our story of purposeful scholarship and innovation; the more friends of Chico State want to invest in us. Our gift trajectory is strong, and we believe we will achieve our campaign goal by or before 2021. Right, Ahmad?

What about WASC?

We successfully completed our WASC on-site review this spring. And in July, we received notification from WASC that the University's accreditation has been reaffirmed. The University received accreditation for eight years.

[APPLAUSE]

That's huge. Eight years. This is a campus achievement of which we all should be proud. Our fearless leaders and dynamic duo who led our campus through a very lengthy but successful reaccreditation process, Provost Larson and Vice Provost Grassian, please stand.

[APPLAUSE]

Also, if you are a member of the accreditation planning team and the Accreditation Steering Committee also stand so that we may see who you are. Stand up.

[APPLAUSE]

OK, this is like the state of the union address where we applaud every 10 seconds, but we will move quickly. The WASC commission commended us on the caring response to a crisis. They also commended us on:

- Continuity and stability during leadership turnover;
- Rebuilding trust and morale;
- Conducting an inclusive strategic planning process.
- They commended us for our commitment to the wellbeing of students;
- Strategic approach to distance education;
- Assessment of GE program; and
- For our GI 2025 progress and increased diversity.

They did have recommendations, and these are things that are not new to us. These are things we are already working on. Based on the WASC recommendations, areas of improvement include:

- Connect annual assessments and program reviews in a more meaningful and substantial way;

- Further develop Institutional Research;
- Improve how transfer and non-traditional students are served;
- Prioritize transitioning from interim to permanent; and
- Diversify faculty to align with student demographics.

We will continue our good work on this. We now have, not so much as eight years, but we have half that time to show progress on these goals, I believe. Daniel is on it, right? We agree with these recommendations. So, we will share progress on these goals throughout the year and years to come.

Since I mentioned improved graduation rates, I thought I might provide you with a few stats about where our students go after they graduate. Information comes from our First Destination data collected by the Career Center for the class of 2017–18. In a survey of all 2017–18 graduates, a total of 1,932, or 47 percent, provided responses.

Of those: 77 percent were either employed full time or enrolled in grad school, which is above the national average of 71 percent (60 percent employed/17 enrolled). About 13 percent were still seeking employment. The average starting salary for all graduates was \$49,423.

It's interesting to note where our graduates go, 42 percent remain in Northern California and 20 percent go to the Bay Area. This is a significant contribution to workforce development and economic vitality of the region. I'm really excited about that, so thank you Career Center.

ACADEMIC SHOWCASE

One of the points I drive home each Convocation is the importance of innovation in curricula, instruction, and scholarship. Today, we have a special presentation that I will showcase. This is a 2D animation created especially for Convocation by students in the Department of Art and Art History. Using a combination of practical techniques like stop-motion animation, puppetry and miniatures, combined with the latest digital hardware and software, digital media lecturer Josh Funk and his team of six students created this short animation. Josh, where are you? Please stand.

[APPLAUSE]

Let me tell you about Josh.

As a filmmaker and animator, Josh's work has been shown around the world and he has won numerous awards. I asked Josh and his student team to use the theme: Unlocking Our Potential, a concept I continue to push to reality as we take Chico State to the realm of prominence. Here we go.

[VIDEO & APPLAUSE]

So, let's meet the team members. Those able to join us, please stand. So, stay standing and wave when I call your name. I will call everyone's name, but wave when it is your name.

- Valeria Moreno, lead character designer
- Cassie Sturdevant, storyboard and character artist
- Val Thomas, set and prop designer, animator

Not able to attend are:

Eunjoo Joo, puppet builder and digital artist; Christian Raught, set and prop designer, animator; and Owen Smith, lead animator, digital artist. And now here is a behind the scenes look at the making of the film.

[VIDEO & APPLAUSE]

Well done. Each year I try to think of something different to push innovation and put a spotlight on our students and the great work they do and our professors and the great work they do. When we presented the concept to Josh about unlocking our potential, they came up with the story. It is remarkable and this kind of learning helps prepare our students for the future. Congratulations.

Josh and his team creatively lead us into the biggest news that I have to reveal today. The Strategic Plan and Master Plan both will serve as key elements in our journey toward distinction where students earn a premiere education through leading-edge instruction, service, and scholarship.

I'll begin with the new strategic plan. We began this effort, under the leadership of Chief of Staff Brooke Banks. Excuse me, Dr. Banks. Brooke successfully defended her dissertation this summer and earned her PhD in technology management from Indiana State University. Congratulations, Dr. Banks.

[APPLAUSE]

OK, back to the other news.

Strategic planning began over a year ago, under the leadership of Dr. Banks. We conducted an inclusive campus and community planning process. I would argue the most inclusive process that Chico State has seen to date. Data collection included early environmental scans, Future Fest meetings, planning workshops and online surveys. At its conclusion, the strategic plan had over 750 participants generate more than 4,000 lines of data.

The strategic planning process supported consensus-building, community involvement, data utilization, shared governance, and transparency. Faculty, staff, students, and community members engaged in vigorous analysis, deliberative dialogue, and shared big ideas for the future

Now, for the culmination of our work, I formally release our statements of new mission, vision, enduring commitments and strategic priorities.

The mission statement shall read:

Chico State is the comprehensive University of the North State with a global reach. Through excellence of inquiry, innovation, and applied learning, we develop students who are critical thinkers, responsible citizens, diverse leaders, and inspired stewards of environmental, social, and economic resources.

Our vision is short:

We will be known as a pre-eminent university solving the unprecedented challenges of the 21st century.

Enduring commitments are the time-honored commitments we make to students and each other. They are the building blocks for a high-quality college education. They are essential ingredients to student success. Yes, we have always embraced them, and with the launch of our new strategic plan we promise to do them better than we have ever done before. Therefore, you will hear inspirational statements with each commitment.

To achieve academic distinction, we must assess, develop, and revise academic programs so that they are especially flexible to meet student needs for the future, and innovative using student-engaged research and creative activity that challenges the boundaries of knowledge. Yes, we must find ways to invest in faculty and staff growth and development that elevates our national academic reputation. Increasing the number of grants and sponsored projects would be a good start.

That is why the Research Foundation and the Office of Research and Sponsored Programs were combined to create Chico State Enterprises.

I deeply appreciate the hard work of Dean David Hassenzahl who has stepped up as interim CEO of the Enterprises, along with the entire RF and RESP staffs. The internal 'soft launch' occurred on July 15. A search is now underway for a permanent CEO. The Chico State Enterprises team is working to ensure that the new organization provides efficient, mission-related services to the campus and community. An open house is planned later this fall at 25 Main Street.

Transformative student experiences must enrich student wellbeing and drive intellectual curiosity and engagement through caring and empowering relationships, support, and co-curricular experiences. We know this as the Chico Experience. Going forward we renew our commitment to create an inclusive campus environment thereby increasing opportunities for ALL students and reducing barriers to graduation.

We need to leverage curiosity toward scholarly activity in ways that drive student engagement, retention, and success. To become a preeminent university, faculty and staff MUST be recognized as regional, national and global leaders in their respected disciplines and I would argue our students, too. Think about the awards our students win locally and nationally year after year, that is part of being the outstanding university. Scholarship must also be integrated into interdisciplinary curricula and co-curricular activities.

Culture of Excellence and Accountability . . . first and foremost, we work to ensure that academic priorities and student success guide our plans, policies, and processes. We embrace shared governance, promote collaboration, and communicate broadly. We continuously improve ourselves through data-driven assessment. We promote a culture of wellness where students, faculty and staff work in and benefit from a safe, healthy, and inclusive university community. And, we commit to a consistent Chico State identity and message by developing a cohesive identity framework that expresses globally the University's distinctive qualities and attributes.

Now for strategic priorities.

Enduring commitments power the mission of the University, and they fuel students' drive for success. The new strategic priorities are grounded in our four enduring commitments. And, these strategic priorities will provide the University with focus as we aspire to achieve our new vision statement. To be sure that our campus focus remains astute, to keep us from distraction, three strategic priorities will direct us going forward. These priorities are predicated on the primacy of student success enabled by the excellence of faculty and staff, as well as communication, technology and philanthropy.

The first priority is equity diversity and inclusion. We will continue to cultivate and nurture a welcoming and inclusive University where students, faculty, and staff have equitable opportunities to thrive. We will:

- Eliminate equity gaps.
- Promote hiring and retention that contribute to a diverse and inclusive community reflecting our student demographics.
- Maximize the recruitment, retention, support, and graduation of students from diverse backgrounds.
- Address real-world issues of equity, diversity, and inclusion through interdisciplinary and international education, scholarship, and experiences.
- Cultivate an environment that embraces diversity of thought, freedom of speech, and respect for others.

At Chico State, we have a commitment to diversity and inclusion. Establishing Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion as our first strategic priority signals a campuswide commitment to openly and actively pursue inclusivity and equity in all that we do as a comprehensive public university.

Let me tell you why we didn't have numbers at first, because you're going to see a matrix. In the matrix, we have equal weight integrated throughout, so this is number one and the second one you see is number one and the third one you see is number one. All three of these must happen in order for us to achieve what we aspire to be. I want to make that clear.

We have quite a few initiatives that support our strategic priorities. For instance, the initiative where we focus on student success. We continue to make modest progress on first-time freshman graduation rates, currently at 29.3 percent for the four-year rate and 66.3 percent for the six-year rate, on our way to our 2025 targets of 40 percent and 74 percent respectively. The transfer graduation rates show good progress: 39 percent for the two-year rate and 78.6 percent for the four-year rate. Graduation rates of underrepresented minorities and Pell students are improving, but gaps persist. We must eliminate these equity gaps. This is our charge.

Another key component is ensuring basic needs, like food, housing, and health care so our students are able to focus on their studies. Currently, the University provides ongoing support through the Basic Needs Initiative. Under the direction of Joe Picard, the initiative served more than 6,000 students in 2018–19, an average of 200 students per day. The office managed 257 needs applications for assistance: 159 were Camp fire related, 19 were related to the floods, and 129 were not disaster related. We must continue to battle food insecurities among our students.

A total of 45 displaced or homeless students were placed in short-term emergency accommodations through University Housing and community partnerships. This was a 246 percent increase from the previous academic year when 13 students sought emergency placement. This progress is championed by Joe Picard and Dan Herbert, who serves as the Director of Off Campus Student Services. Would Joe and Dan please stand? Thank you.

Drs. Susan Roll and Jennifer Wilking, with a grant from the Chancellor's Office, will be conducting a mixed methods study this fall of students experiencing housing insecurity. This study is in addition to their interdisciplinary course where students examine issues of homelessness through policy and research. Students in this course design models for campus/community partnerships to ameliorate lack of affordable housing in the community. To Jen and Susan, I look forward to learning more about what you and your students find as a result of this important work.

Currently, Chico State is expanding its efforts to provide affordable textbooks or alternatives for students. Our textbook affordability initiatives faculty co-leaders Beth Shook and Edward Roualdes report that the adoption of more affordable course materials has saved students more than \$500,000. I look forward to continuing this trajectory.

These numbers only account for the semester for which a course adopted more affordable materials, but they do not account for any subsequent use of course materials. So, this is a good start.

In continued pursuit of academic excellence and transformative student experiences, Student Affairs and Academic Affairs joined forces to establish the Student Transition and Retention Center. Located in Meriam Library. Under the direction of Malcolm McLemore, the new center encourages educational collaboration and innovative approaches to enhance student achievement for historically underserved students at Chico State. Programmatic areas include academic advising, academic preparation and support, active learning, faculty engagement opportunities, post baccalaureate exploration, and academic retention programs. The center will celebrate its grand opening on September 4 from 3:30 to 4:30 pm in Meriam Library Room 161. Please join Malcolm and his staff.

[APPLAUSE]

I'm going to close with this thought, we educate the most ethnically, economically, and academically diverse student body in the University's history. We are adapting and learning right along with all of our students as to how to serve them best. To be the best, we must ensure an inclusive and equitable campus where everyone has the opportunity to strive and thrive. Graduating students in a timely manner positively impacts their future positioning them to solve the challenges of the 21st century.

Our next priority is Civic and Global Engagement.

We will:

- Connect with regional, national and global communities in mutually beneficial ways to effect meaningful change in the world around us.
- Engage students, faculty, staff, and community members through placed-based experiential learning and internship opportunities.
- Pursue local and global engagement, social justice, and connectedness.
- Instill a culture of philanthropy and civic engagement.
- Broaden opportunities for civic and global engagement in our academic and co-curricular programs.

So just a few words on this, the University's work supporting the recovery and rebuilding of communities devastated by the Camp Fire and all of the work we discussed earlier is one of the best examples of current initiatives that fall under this important priority.

Further, the University is a strong participant in civic life in the city of Chico and the North State. We have hundreds of examples of volunteerism, service-learning projects, and civic engagement. One example occurred in Chico last spring when our campus hosted a summit to explore community safety concerns and solutions.

The April summit provided an opportunity for faculty, staff, students, and community members to come together and begin a dialogue that will ultimately help direct our efforts toward improving campus and community safety.

I will say the students who attended the meeting were incredibly outspoken and I know we will pay close attention and work to ameliorate their concerns. Coordinated by Student Affairs and Student Life and Leadership, the summit revealed that many students are ill-informed about campus safety resources, such as University Police, the Chico State Alerts system, blue light phones, Campus Connection Shuttle Service, Campus Alcohol and Drug Center, and Safe Place. To change that, a Wildcat Student Guide and Planner was created and distributed to all new students at Summer Orientation and other points on campus. This guide includes information about accessing all of the above resources in a well-organized and useful notebook.

In addition, topics from the Summit—which included safety downtown, crime, safety specifically for students of color, connections and synergies between campus and community, especially in the area of law enforcement and accountability—are being collected in preparation for review by the Town and Gown Committee. Possible starter conversations for that committee include infrastructure such as lighting and safety cameras, and the possibility of a residential party registration system that would help prevent violence associated with open parties.

Dan Herbert and Mayor Randall Stone have already met to develop an agenda for the September meeting of the Town and Gown Committee. I speak on behalf of campus when I say we look forward to the ways that we can work together to improve safety in our town, on and off campus.

Rural Partnerships is an interdisciplinary group established in 2016 and led by Dr. Ann Schulte. The group brings together faculty and staff who are involved in initiatives or interested in pursuing them with rural communities in our service area. As the University of the North State, these partnerships are critical to the health of the region's communities. The ongoing partnerships that are doing important work include the Far Northern California Hub, the Rural Schools Collaborative, Expect More Tehama, and Reach Higher Shasta. I encourage all of you to find ways to involve your students in civic engagement through service-learning projects. Please contact Ann Schulte, if you wish to learn more.

Research and initiatives on the Chico State campus have a local, regional, and global reach. To name just a few . . . our agriculture students are looking to reduce greenhouse gases. Engineering students are searching alternative energy sources and watershed and water quality issues. Students are seeking cures for diseases and social injustice.

To zero in on one area, Chico State's Human Identification Laboratory provides forensic anthropology services to state and federal law enforcement, medical examiners and attorneys on both national and international cases. Forensic services include search and recovery of human remains, with the potential for additional lab analysis. Our faculty serve as expert witnesses in a legal system in resolving crime, missing person cases, and providing closure for families. The laboratory has assisted with the following types of identification:

- Potential migrants found deceased along the US-Mexico border;
- Remains from Korea of fallen Korean War service members; and

- Mass grave excavation in Bosnia Herzegovina for the United National International Criminal Tribunal.

The HIL is providing expertise and service on a global scale.

Civic and global engagement really are the hallmarks of this institution. We have always prided ourselves in our ability to partner with communities nearby and throughout the world. These partnerships have beneficial outcomes that affect meaningful improvements in community and environments. Going forward, we will improve our abilities to partner with communities, and we will expand our partnerships by inviting non-profit agencies, industry leaders, and other civic-minded groups to join us as we improve education opportunities and civic life, and provide our students with more transformative experiences with both.

The next strategic priority, again there are only three, is resilient and sustain able systems.

You know as well as I do that the effects of climate change are increasing daily and growing more severe and damaging to humans, civilizations, animals, and eco-systems. As a founding signatory on the University Presidents' Climate Agreement, Chico State has a responsibility to exercise leadership in our community by contributing knowledge, innovation, science and practice that will help society build more resilient environments for a sustainable future.

At Chico State, we are committed to reducing our greenhouse gas emissions aiming to become climate neutral by 2030. In order to do so, we must step up our focus and activity. Cheri Chastain is leading the way as our campus operations Sustainability Manager.

Further, we will continue, but on a larger scale, to integrate environmental, social, and economic resilience into our curriculum, scholarship, service, and campus operations so as to better prepare our students and ourselves to live climate-neutral lifestyles and to solve climate challenges that have yet to present themselves.

[APPLAUSE]

Thank you. So, we will:

- Strive toward a just and sustainable future by advancing science in environmental, social, and economic resiliency and sustainability;
- Aim for campus to be climate neutral by 2030;
- Integrate sustainability and resilience into curriculum, research, and campus operations to better serve students and meet the needs of society;
- Recover and adapt to significant difficulties or challenges and recognize our responsibility and commitment to help those communities we serve enhance their abilities to be resilient in the face of emergencies, disasters, and challenging times.

The campus Sustainability Committee was re-energized this past year and I'm proud to report a robust membership, consisting of nearly 20 students, faculty, and staff. The committee met six times. The initial focus was to lay the groundwork for an action-oriented committee aligned with our climate commitment. Key priorities for the upcoming year are:

- Establish subcommittees for 11 focus areas

- Identify specific priorities, goals, and an implementation plan for 19–20
- Produce an annual progress report
- Recommend an update to the EM, clarifying committee charge
- To stay informed or get involved, I suggest you get involved and go to www.csuchico.edu/sustainability

An updated greenhouse gas inventory was conducted in spring 2019, covering the 2017–18 time period. The inventory shows positive GHG reduction trends with a 52 percent reduction in emissions since 2006. This is equivalent to the carbon sequestered by 49 acres of forest in one year, or more than 100,000 passenger vehicles miles traveled or 17 roads trips from San Francisco to New York and back. While this is progress, there is a lot of work to be done before we can meet our climate neutrality goals. We are going to need active participation, ideas, actions, innovation, and investment if we are going to meet climate neutrality by 2030.

Students, staff and faculty commuting to and from campus account for the single-largest sources of GHG for our campus and I look forward to many new alternative transportation-related programs and projects, including a new bike path through campus this fall.

[APPLAUSE]

FMS is working to finalize signage and markings for the bike path. Now, any good engineer knows you don't put the markers in until you identify where they are going to go. We have it framed in. Where is Mike? If you have questions, see Mike.

[LAUGHTER]

We're learning as we go through this, I want to give kudos to FMS and the team. When you are coming across the bridge is where the bike path starts, so when you walk across the bridge, make sure you stop and look both ways for bikes coming through. We'll run the pilot this fall and see how it goes. We'll collect data on it and at the end of the year, we'll figure out a way to make it permanent, so may this be the first of many.

[APPLAUSE]

OK, next.

Recently, Chico State submitted a request for additional solar on four campus buildings: the new science building, BMU, WREC, and Parking Structure 2. It is out for bid.

This year we will complete an update of the Campus Climate Action Plan aligning it closely with the new Master Plan as I mentioned earlier. Included in the Climate Action Plan will be a resilient campus/community strategy matrix.

The Regenerative Agriculture Initiative officially became a center in May and was renamed the Center for Regenerative Agriculture and Resilient Systems. With an interdisciplinary team of faculty and staff both on- and off-campus, the Center's aims to investigate, develop, demonstrate, and educate about comprehensive and regenerative practices that both restore and enhance the resiliency of living systems. The center also supports farming and ranching communities around the globe with applied

research, educational programs, and economically viable production systems that build soil carbon. I'm looking forward to more.

Regarding sustainable practice, the Division of Business and Finance shares exciting news about our colleagues in Procurement. Working with procurement officers from the 23 CSU campuses, the Chief Procurement Officers Association created a strategic plan centered on collaboration and delivering value to the CSU. One of the systemwide goals was to deliver \$15 million in savings for fiscal year 2018–19. We are happy to report that collectively, the campuses were able to achieve \$34 million in savings, 127 percent more than the goal! Chico State was given a target of saving \$425,000; the actual savings came in at more than \$630,000, which is 48 percent over target.

[APPLAUSE]

This kind of innovative and collaborative thinking benefits our students and the entire campus. Well done Sara Rumiano and the procurement team!

This is what I want you to see. At the top, you see three strategic priorities. These three strategic priorities are in every enduring commitment that we have, so it makes sense, to me, this matrix makes good sense. Each and everything we do must be with equity, inclusion and diversity in mind, civic and global engagement in mind and this to me is a very focused, a very, I think clear, directed plan for the future and it is one that we advise collectively together and it is one that will launch us into that realm of preeminence of moving from notable to outstanding university.

This academic year, we will spend time developing specific, measurable, assignable, realistic and time-bound goals, yes that's right SMART goals that we will use to not only hold ourselves accountable to these University priorities, but to ensure that we set deadlines by which to achieve them.

On to the master plan.

Evolving side-by-side with the Strategic Plan and using a highly inclusive and interactive planning process is the Campus Master Plan, which will provide us with the structure to support our areas of excellence. The master plan itself is nearly done. Once the consultants complete the draft report, it will be examined by Cabinet before release to campus. The Smith Group, with whom we have been working, is finalizing the list of potential near-term projects, a phasing plan, and a report. Additionally, we have environmental consultants working on the environmental analysis of the plan for preparation of the Environmental Impact Report.

There are six elements that define the new master plan that I want you tell you that I couldn't wait to be involved in a strategic planning process where the strategic planning process will walk hand in hand with the master process. It only took 35 years.

[APPLAUSE]

So, here are the six elements. An Inclusive Chico State, An Experiential Chico State, A Learning Chico State, A Connected Chico State, A Mobile Chico State, A Sustainable Chico State. I think this is quite impressive. This fall there will be public meetings and a comment period so that faculty, staff, students and members of the community can once again give us feedback.

The feedback that we collect will be carefully considered before we put the finishing touches on the plan. It is the University's intent to complete the report and submit the new master plan and an environmental impact report to the California State University Board of Trustees in March with hopes of receiving their approval at their meeting in May 2020. Meanwhile, we're moving on with a number of projects.

The Omron lab began construction on July 22 and will be complete by the end of November. This Plumas Hall space will bring state of the art equipment and teaching spaces to our students.

One of the most visible projects has been the replacement of the Kendall Hall roof. We no longer have the second-floor water feature.

[LAUGHTER]

The campus has used a combination of savings from other projects as well as deferred maintenance funding from the CSU to begin addressing our critical electrical infrastructure. We are currently doing work to improve routing and resilience of the cables and plan to begin construction on a new electrical blockhouse with new switchgear to replace our aging equipment from the 1970s. This project addresses our most critical vulnerability on the campus. It's an ongoing project that we plan to continue working on for several years, starting with the new blockhouse and switchgear then continuing in phase with new electrical cables. I know this stuff is exciting for you, but I can tell that Mike is on the edge of his seat. We can't function without it. It is important that we do it.

After we were bashed by a storm last April, we were left with damage across campus. We are currently completing several major repairs, including complete renovation of the Whitney Hall basement to prevent an ocean coming in and a new basketball gym floor at the WREC, in addition to several other smaller repairs throughout campus as a result of the flooding. The total estimate for repair is \$4 million.

I thought it would be fun to keep you in your seats a little longer to take a look at the progress we have made on the new science building.

[VIDEO & APPLAUSE]

I want to give a shout out to Mike and the FMS crew who is supporting the contractors that we have. Just all of the work that happened over the last year, this summer, and the support you're giving for the physical science building and all of the projects we have targeted for the years to come. I want to give a shout out to you.

[APPLAUSE]

We're getting there. I only have four more paragraphs, really.

Finally, looking ahead, the campus has received funds to renovate the old Physical Science Building and Butte Hall. We are in the procurement process right now for the design-build firms and will keep the campus apprised of progress.

Renovation of the old Physical Science building is scheduled in summer 2020 with completion planned for fall 2021. We will then follow up with the renovation of Butte Hall starting in fall 2021 with completion planned for summer 2023. It's true that these changes will cause disruptions, but the end result will be vastly improved learning spaces for our students.

I want to thank you in advance for your support for the disruptions and your patience as we navigate through it. It is in the service to our students.

Before I give my closing statement, please join me in the courtyard for light refreshments and don't forget to turn in your clicker. How many got all of the questions? Kudos to Lori for the hard questions this year.

I want to unveil something else to you. A revised logo. In the middle are three strategic priorities. They are the flame. They are the inspiration. They are what we are dedicated to ensure student success from this day and we are preparing for the challenges in the 20th century. Framing the flame are the commitments that we have, pursuit of academic distinction, transformative student experiences, the opportunity for prominent scholarship and innovation, and a culture of excellence and accountability. This is our strategic plan and when you see an icon like this, you know exactly what is expected of us and it is easier for us to tell our story.

Last year, we pulled together during an unprecedented disaster and several compelling emergencies all while continuing to serve students. We successfully completed WASC reaccreditation, a new Strategic Plan, and a draft of a new physical Master Plan. Our true grit was truly tested. Yet, through it all we remained passionate about our mission to educate and serve, our desire and determination to succeed was evident in our collective strength and resilience.

The late great Toni Morrison once said, "If there is a book you want to read, but it hasn't been written yet, then you must write it." With the new Strategic Plan, we have written the introductory chapter to our journey. Thank you, and I would like to express appreciation to the team that helped bring this together. Thank you very much.

[APPLAUSE]

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