California State University, Chico
Division of Student Affairs
El Centro
Latine/x Resource Center
Annual Report 2025-26

I. Mission Statement

El Centro Latine/x Resource Center at CSU, Chico exists to affirm, support, and empower Latine/x students through culturally grounded programming, peer mentorship, academic support, and direct connections to resources. El Centro is a home on campus where identity is celebrated, community is built, and every Latine/x Wildcat is reminded that they belong here and are supported in becoming who they are meant to be.

II. Accomplishments - A highlight

Proudly Owning Who We Are

El Centro delivered 108 programs in 2025–26, 69 in fall, 41 in spring, anchored in the cultural identity and lived experiences of our Latine/x community. Signature events, including the Latin American Independence Day Celebration, Posada Navideña, and the Latine/x Unity Awards, created consistent spaces for belonging. Students told us what these moments meant to them:

"I love it when the school puts together events like this; it's the perfect opportunity to connect and find my Latino community." ~ Posada Navideña

"I made connections with people I haven't met before and deeper connections with people I already know." ~Latine/x Unity Awards

Leveraging Our Strengths in What We Do

El Centro's embedded services model brought academic and basic needs support directly into the center: weekly counseling office hours, faculty-in-residence hours three days per week, Writing Wednesdays with SLC Tutor-Sage Crossin, CALFresh enrollment support, and Basic Needs referrals. The inaugural Mi Casa Es Tu Casa event (March 25, 2026) brought 19 Butte College CASA students to campus for a structured day of resource exploration and community-building, engaging 11 campus departments. El Centro also designed and launched the inaugural Leadership Development Program (LDP), a multi-center collaboration with CCLC and APIDA serving 7 unaffiliated students across three cultural centers.

Advancing Our Influence by How We Do Our Work

El Centro's 34 collaboration programs reflect a center built on partnerships. Mi Casa Es Tu Casa established a formal pipeline relationship with Butte College CASA, and the LDP created a shared leadership infrastructure across three cultural centers that did not previously exist. El Centro's student staff team of 5, supported by 1 professional staff member, served as both program implementers and community ambassadors throughout the year.

Let's Dance!

From live music at the Latin American Independence Day Celebration to the warmth of Posada Navideña, El Centro's 32 cultural and community-building programs were not peripheral to the mission; they were the mission. Daily visits to the center averaged 37 by spring 2026, nearly double the 19 average recorded in El Centro's inaugural year.

III. Program Statistics and Assessment for the Past Year

Center Reach

11,242 All-time visits	**1,180** Unique students	**37** Avg. daily visits	**108** Programs offered
86.9% Latine/x identified	**60%** First-generation	**11+** Campus partners	**19 → 37** Daily visits: yr.1→26

Programming Breakdown

Program Type	# Programs	% of Total
Cultural & Community Building	32	30%
Collaborations	34	31%
Academic Support	32	30%
Mentorship	10	9%

Mi Casa Es Tu Casa — Assessment (March 25, 2026)

19 participants; 13 completed post-event survey (68% response rate). 5-point Likert scale.

Survey Item	Rating 5	Rating 4
El Centro felt like a welcoming space where I could see myself belonging.	**12 (92.3%)**	1 (7.7%)
I learned about at least one resource relevant to me at Chico State.	**12 (92.3%)**	1 (7.7%)
I would encourage other students from my college to visit El Centro.	**12 (92.3%)**	1 (7.7%)

100% of respondents rated El Centro's impact at a 4 or 5 across all three outcome measures.

Leadership Development Program — Assessment

7 participants across El Centro (3), CCLC (2), and APIDA (2). 5 of 7 completed the post-program survey; one student missed the final session due to a field trip conflict.

Competency Area	Avg. Rating	% Rated 4 or 5
Leadership	**4.80 / 5**	100
Programming & leading small-scale events	**4.50 / 5**	100%
Public speaking / leading meetings/conflict resolution	**4.40 / 5**	100%
Cultural competency / collaborating with others	**4.20 / 5**	100%
Inclusive language ⚠	3.80 / 5	80%

Conflict resolution was cited as the most impactful session. Inclusive language (3.80) was the lowest-rated area; students specifically requested earlier and more specific queer-inclusive language content. This will directly inform the LDP Year 2 curriculum.

Key Findings

- Daily visits nearly doubled year-over-year (19 → 37), reflecting growing student awareness and utilization of El Centro.
- Mi Casa Es Tu Casa and the LDP both produced strong, measurable student outcomes in belonging, resource connection, and leadership confidence.
- Spring programming (41) was lower than fall (69) capacity, and scheduling factors will be examined in 2026–27 planning.
- Inclusive language is an identified curriculum gap in the LDP that will be addressed in Year 2.

IV. Integrate Unit Objectives with Strategic Action Plan in 2026-27

El Centro will pursue one measurable outcome per Value Proposition in 2026–27. These goals are intentionally grounded in what the center is already building, rather than aspirational targets that outpace current capacity.

Proudly Owning Who We Are

El Centro will administer a post-event belonging survey at a minimum of 3 cultural programs in 2026–27, establishing a consistent baseline for measuring sense of belonging over time. Success is defined as administering the survey and reviewing results, not hitting a specific percentage in year one.

Leveraging Our Strengths in What We Do

El Centro will launch Cena con los Profes, a new series creating intentional connections between Latine/x students and Latine/x faculty. Two dinners will be hosted, one per semester, where students can build mentorship relationships, learn about faculty pathways, and feel a sense of belonging in academic spaces. A brief post-event reflection will be collected from student participants at each dinner.

Advancing Our Influence by How We Do Our Work

El Centro will continue the LDP in collaboration with CCLC and APIDA, incorporating Year 1 student feedback into the curriculum, particularly around inclusive language and queer-affirming content, and adding an academic success component to the program. The goal is to retain or grow cohort size and maintain an average post-program confidence rating of 4.0 or above across all competency areas.

Let's Dance!

El Centro will develop at least 2 signature joy-centered events focusing on student & faculty engagement per semester, 2 total across the year, and will track attendance to build a programming baseline for future planning. Assessment topic: El Centro will assess the outcomes of Cena con los Profes using a brief post-dinner student reflection. The Assessment Champion Group will be consulted as needed.

V. Identify at least one goal/objective that supports the Chico State Playbook in 2026-27

The Chico State Playbook identifies the creation of a welcoming and exciting university culture as the institution's highest current priority. El Centro's work is central to that goal, not ancillary to it. A thriving cultural center with students who feel seen, supported, and celebrated is one of the clearest expressions of a welcoming campus.

In 2026–27, El Centro will support this priority through two commitments:

- Cena con los Profes (described above) directly advances the Playbook's Connection value, building relationships between students and Latine/x faculty that reflect the community agreements of respect, empathy, and integrity. Helping students see themselves in the faculty around them is one of the most powerful things a cultural center can do for campus culture.
- El Centro will implement a simple, consistent student-staff recognition practice, peer shoutouts in team meetings and a semester-end celebration, supporting the employee engagement priority and modeling the kind of affirming workplace culture Chico State is working to build.

Playbook connections: Connection • Inspiration • Foster an equitable, inclusive, and rewarding environment for all students and employees.

CSU Promise connection: Experiential Learning: student staff roles and the LDP develop real-world skills that prepare students for professional futures.