



TODAY
MORROW

California State University Chico

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS 2022-2023 ANNUAL REPORT

A Message from Interim Provost Steve Perez

Since arriving at Chico State in January, I have made a point to embed myself in as much of the “Chico Experience” as possible. I wanted to feel what made this campus tick and why I had heard so much buzz about it during my time in the California State University System.



So, I’ve taken every opportunity to engage with our students, our faculty, our staff, and our community. The takeaway? I am truly blown away by how much commitment, drive, and passion there is here at Chico State. I am extremely honored and privileged to transition into becoming your next president in July.

The Division of Academic Affairs has welcomed me in a way I did not anticipate. There are so many amazing things going on across our colleges and units, and the hard work and dedication of all our incredible people is tremendous and important. It has been such a pleasure to be here as your interim provost and help guide the Division toward its path to prominence.

As I look ahead to the future of Chico State, I wish to impart a couple last words as interim provost. Keep doing what you’re doing, because what you do matters. Everything you’ve done and will do impacts the lives of our students and gives them the best educational experience possible. Sometimes it can be hard to see how much of an effect you have, but trust me—I’ve seen it in action. Chico State has some of the most astounding people I’ve come across in academia, and I am eager to continue working with all of you in my new role as Chico State enters its next chapter.

Thank you for everything you do.

A handwritten signature in red ink, appearing to read "Steve Perez".

Steve Perez

Table of Contents

4	Newly Tenured and Promoted Faculty/New Faculty Hires
5	Joy of Learning
6	Hall of Honor
7	Faculty and Staff Awards
9	Academic Personnel
10	Faculty Development
12	Graduate Studies
17	International Education and Global Engagement
20	Technology and Learning Program
21	Undergraduate Education
23	Budget and Academic Resources
24	Chico State Enterprises
26	College of Agriculture
31	College of Behavioral and Social Sciences
35	College of Business
39	College of Communication and Education
43	College of Engineering, Computer Science, and Construction Management
48	College of Humanities and Fine Arts
54	College of Natural Sciences
58	Meriam Library
61	Professional & Continuing Education

Tenure/Promotion and New 2023–24 Faculty

Behavioral and Social Sciences

Shelley Hart	Full	CHLD	Promotion
Nicholas Janos	Full	SOCI	Promotion
Naomi Lazarus	Associate	GEOP	Tenure and Promotion
Christine Leistner	Associate	PHHA	Tenure and Promotion
Greg Madonia	Associate	ECON	Tenure and Promotion
Ruben Sargsyan	Associate	ECON	Tenure and Promotion
Nicole Sherman	Associate	POLS	Tenure and Promotion

Business

Emily Huang	Full	ISFA	Promotion
Parand Mansouri-Rad	Associate	ISFA	Tenure and Promotion

Communication and Education

Stephen Caldes	Associate	JOUR	Tenure and Promotion
Joshua Moss	Associate	MADT	Tenure and Promotion
Benjamin Seipel	Full	EDUC	Promotion

Engineering, Computer Science, and Construction Management

Zahra Alavi	Associate	EECE	Tenure and Promotion
Mohammed Albahtiti	Associate	CIMT	Tenure and Promotion
Todd Gibson	Full	CSCI	Promotion
Marie Patterson	Associate	CMGT	Tenure and Promotion
Kun Zhang	Associate	CIVL	Tenure and Promotion

Humanities and Fine Arts

Friederike Fichtner	Associate	LANC	Tenure and Promotion
Rachel Middleman	Full	ARTS	Promotion
Jason Nice	Full	HIST	Promotion
Corey Sparks	Associate	ENGL	Tenure and Promotion

Natural Sciences

Troy Cline	Full	BIOL	Promotion
Maria Giovanni	Full	NFSC	Promotion
Kristen Gorman	Associate	BIOL	Tenure and Promotion
Darcy Hostetter-Lewis	Full	NURS	Promotion
Seth Klobodu	Associate	NFSC	Tenure and Promotion
Holly Kralj	Full	NURS	Promotion
Ennies Musvosvi	Associate	NURS	Tenure
Emily Nuester-Fleming	Full	BIOL	Promotion
Kodeeswaran Parameshwaran	Associate	BIOL	Tenure and Promotion
Krista Strand	Associate	MATH	Tenure and Promotion

Meriam Library

Irene Korber	Associate	LADO	Tenure and Promotion
--------------	-----------	------	----------------------

New Faculty Hires

Ginger Alonso	Political Science and Criminal Justice
Quinyi Li	School of School Work
Charlie Pooler	Mechanical and Mechatronic Engineering and Advanced Manufacturing
Anne-Marie Snider	Sociology

Joy of Learning

Joy of Learning is an annual showcase where everyone gets energized and excited about the new academic year! Our exceptional faculty and librarians give short presentations on what they do best: engaging, enlightening, and inspiring our Chico State community. You can view past presentations [here](#). We'd like to give a special acknowledgment to our wonderful 2022 faculty presenters:



Celina Phillips
Agriculture: Animal Science
"Superheroes in Animal Nutrition"



Aaron Draper
Media Arts, Design, and Technology
"From Hieroglyphs to Photographs:
A Return to Visual Expression"



Shawn Bates
Psychology
"Pathways to Pleasure:
The Neuroscience of Reward"



Rouben Mohiuddin
Art: Architecture
"Empathy in Design"



Nadia Korovina
Chemistry and Biochemistry
"Organic Molecules for a Brighter Future"



Ozgul Yasar
Mechanical Engineering
"Achieving Big Goals with
Small Things"



April Howell
Marketing

Kristin Minetti
Marketing

"What Your Professors Can't Teach You"

If you'd like to discover the Joy of Learning, our next event will take place during Wildcat Weekend on Friday, October 13, 2023 at 9 am via the [Chico State Livestream page](#)! More information can be found at the [Joy of Learning webpage](#).

Hall of Honor

The Emeritus and Retired Faculty and Staff Association (ERFSA) established the Hall of Honor to recognize the “best of the best” of the University’s retired faculty and staff. The Hall of Honor is a yearly event where notable emeritus and retired faculty and staff selected by ERFSA committees are formally inducted and their achievements are shared with past and present Chico State peers, their families, and their friends. Honorees have provided years of dedicated service to the University, its students, and its programs. They have also contributed in major ways to the greater Chico community and beyond. For 2023, the inductees are:

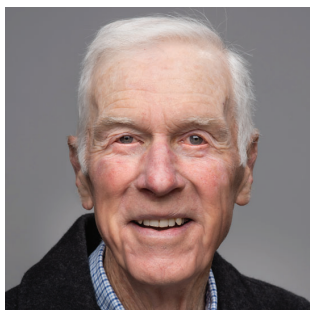
Faculty



Donald Heinz
1975–2017
Religious Studies, College of
Humanities and Fine Arts



Stephen King
1987–2004
College of Communication,
Dept. of Communication
Arts and Sciences



Wes Patton
1969–2004
College of Agriculture



Cynthia Wolf
1989–2017
English,
First-Year Experience

Staff



Billie Jackson*
1977–2006
Student Learning Center,
Disability Support
Services



**Chela Mendoza
Patterson**
1983–2020
Student Affairs



Aldrich Patterson, Jr.*
1983–2014
Counseling Center



Travon Robinson
1996–2021
Office of Equity, Diversity
and Inclusion

All honorees can be accessed by year of induction at [the ERFSA website's Hall of Honor](#) section.

Faculty Awards

2023 Outstanding Faculty Awards



Kevin Buffardi
CSCI
Outstanding
Professor Award



Patrick Johnson
PSYC
Outstanding Faculty
Service Award



Amy Magnus
POLS
Outstanding Early
Career Award



Michelle McConkey
MUTA
Outstanding Academic
Advisor Award



Marci Pope
KINE
Outstanding Lecturer in
Bringing the Profession
to the Classroom Award



Kat Strand
MATH
Outstanding
Teacher Award



Rodney Thomson
HIST
Outstanding
Lecturer Award



Carly Whelan
ANTH
Outstanding Research
Mentor Award

Other Notable Faculty Awards

2022–23 Lantis Endowed University Chairs

Troy Cline (BIOL), Nik Janos (SOC), Najm al-Din Yousefi (HIST)

2022–23 Professional Achievement Honors

Don Hankins (GEOP), Seth Klobodu (NFSC), Rouben Mohiuddin (ARTS),
Monica So (CHEM), Erin Whitney (EDUC)

2022–23 Civically Engaged Scholar

Sue Steiner (SWRK)

2022–23 Early Career Community Engagement Award

Mohammed Albahtiti (CMT)

2022–23 Conversations on Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Awards:

Jeanne Clark (ENGL, “Taking it to the Classroom Award”), Rouben Mohiuddin
(ARTS/ARTH, “Taking it to the Streets Award”)

2022–23 International Wildcat Outstanding Faculty Award

Abbas Attarwala (CSCI)

AA Staff Awards and Years of Service

2022-23 Staff Awards



2022 Employee of the Year:
[Dianne Suschil](#) (IEGE)

2022 Wildcat Spirit Award:

[Rosemary White](#) (GRAD)

2022-23 Conversations on Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Awards:

Carmen Gomez (HFA, “Behind the Scenes Award”)

Rachel Skokowski (Janet Turner Print Museum/HFA, “Pulling Us Together Award”)

Years of Service

35 Years of Service

Peggy Armocido (CMAS), Jill Emanuel (PSYC)

30 Years of Service

Julie Garnett (NURS)

25 Years of Service

Devona Abelar (ECC), Summer Armstrong (ARTS), Kathleen Berry-Garrett (AGR), Jason Schwenkler (NPDC), Yuki Watanabe-Rojas (IEGE), Kimberly Williams (AA)

20 Years of Service

Michele Flowerdew (CSE), Nicol Gray (AA), Kristin Gruneisen (CHC), Randy Needham (GIC), Julie Steele-Wallace (LACE)

15 Years of Service

Adria Davis (ARTS), Jessica Dietrich (REACH), Jennifer Duggan (BUS), Pamela Dunlap (CME), Janine Grassini (PASS), Russell Hicks (CIVL), Robert McCann (CSE), Stephanie Rose (BSS), Kelly Simons (PSYC), Nimalan Vimalachandran (ECC), Liz Wasinger (POLs)

10 Years of Service

James Aird (TLP), Laura Askim (NPDC), Jonathan Clark (NPDC), Rachel Colonna (CHEM), Susan Constantinides (MUTA), Scott Fales (FARM), Joshua Gossman (LRIO), Lawrence Janeway (BIOL), Zakery Jann (MADT), Vicky Junco (HFA), William Koperwhats (ERTH), Jaydie Lee (NSC), Jan Mathews (EDUC), Jeannette Methvin-Terry (MUTA), Theresa Mundy (HFA), Ann Nikolai (PCE), Marcy Reeves (HFA), Rachelle Sousa (EDUC), Prakrutipryia Trivedi (CHC), Scott Vanni (ECC), Katherine Vargas (EECE), Catlin Wulferdingen (BUS)

Academic Personnel



CHRS Recruiting Expansion:

- All department lecturer pools are now open in CHRS Recruiting
- Implemented [Contingent Start approval](#) process and form
- CHRS Recruiting Monthly Open Support Labs for faculty recruitments
- Chancellor's Office CHRS Recruiting Community of Practice (CoP) co-chair, working on systemwide projects, Bethany Prince
- Chancellor's Office CHRS Recruiting Governance Leads, providing guidance systemwide, Michael Gonsalves

Improved OAPL Website Updates:

- New [Academic Personnel](#) home page
- [Retention, Tenure & Promotion](#) pages
- [Lecturer Faculty Entitlements](#) page
- [Lecturer Order of Assignment](#) page
- [Lecturer Range Elevations](#) page
- [Faculty Early Retirement Program \(FERP\)](#) pages
- [Lecturer Evaluations](#) page

Office of Academic Personnel Updated Forms, Policies, and Processes:

- New Reference Policy/[Reference Request Approvals](#) Implementation
- Revised Academic Appointment Form workflows—2403 AAF's and Unit 11 AAF's approval before signature routing
- [Procedure for Recommending a Tenure-Track Hire for a Campus Lecturer](#) under CBA 12.22.c
- Retired Annuitant Workload Capacity Calculator
- Addition of Handshake recruitment

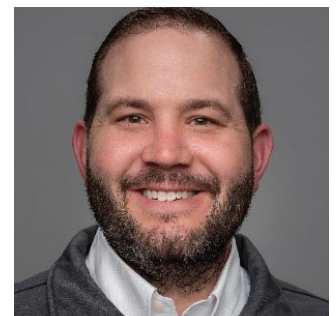
- numbers on Unit 11 appointment forms.
- New [Unit 11 Position Classification Decision Tree](#) to determine classifications.
- [Reemployment Rights for Three-Year Appointed Temporary Faculty memo template](#)
- Improved the 125% tracking—coordination with PCE and CSE
- Revised FERP Program intention communication and acceptance
- Follow-up of faculty Notice of Separations and Separation Clearance forms
- Follow-up with faculty recruits to complete I-9 documentation
- Implemented moving and relocation policy changes
- Officially kicked off the CHRS project as part of Wave 3

Improved Retention, Tenure, and Promotion Practices:

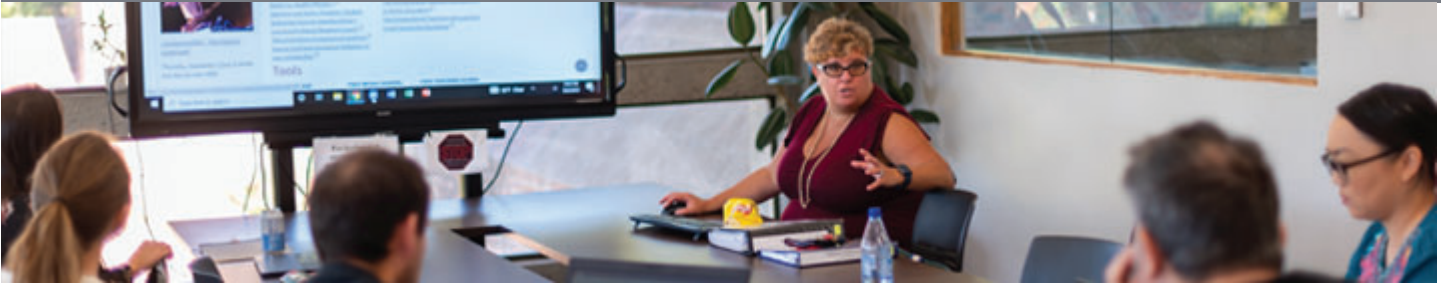
- [Department Standards Checklist](#)
- Department Standards Review—6 fully approved; 7 new 2023–24 provisionally approved; and 12 2022–23 provisional standards extended through 2023–24
- [New Department Standards Election form for probationary Faculty](#)
- Implementation of Faculty Service Awards beginning fall 2023

New Academic Personnel Leadership:

Scott Lynch,
Director of Academic
Personnel Labor Relations



Faculty Development



Faculty Learning Communities (FLC)

- Universal Design for Learning FLC: the FLC invited the participants to think about UDL in the design of their assignments, assessments, and activities to promote inclusion, accessibility, and student success. During the FLC, participants were guided through the creation of interactive lessons, activities, and assessments that aligned with the principles, guidelines, and checkpoints of UDL.
- Early Career BIPOC FLC: the purpose of the Early Career BIPOC FLC is to provide community and support for diverse early career faculty (first three years) to successfully navigate the retention, tenure, and promotion process and develop a network of colleagues toward enhancing their Chico experience. A series of recommendations will be shared with Cabinet and the executive committee of Academic Senate.
- Faculty Writing Community: the faculty writing community included four cohorts led by four facilitators that supported faculty in their research and writing goals, including completing manuscripts, articles, and grant proposals.
- Teaching Climate Change and Resilience: in 2022–2023 the FLC on teaching climate change that FDEV offered in spring 2022 was globally recognized by the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE) and awarded the prestigious Campus Sustainability Achievement Award. The FLC was also featured in the Chronicle of Higher Education.

Workshops and Series

- HSI Professional Development Initiative: [the Office of Faculty Development](#) and [The Latinx Equity and Success](#) offered a series of workshops in spring 2023 to share data, information, research, funding opportunities, and resources about Hispanic-Serving Institutions (HSI). Topics included grant opportunities, theoretical frameworks for research, and methods of assessment to evaluate service.
- EDI Teaching Series: the series included six workshops, and was designed to offer faculty an introduction to basic concepts of equity, diversity, inclusion, and how they can be implemented in the classroom to create more equitable and accessible learning environments. Each workshop was paired with a teaching guide (and other resources) and offered faculty an opportunity to directly apply best EDI practices in the classroom.
- Teaching Racial and Social Justice Series: FDEV offered the third annual teaching racial and social justice series, covering topics that included decolonizing museum studies and practices, trauma-informed teaching, and global learning.
- ChatGPT Forum: the Office of Faculty Development, in collaboration with faculty from a variety of disciplines, offered a forum on ChatGPT, paired with a podcast on AI in Academia. The forum and podcast provided a context to discuss ChatGPT both in academic and ethical terms, and explored ways to incorporate the use of AI in the classroom.

Mentorship

- New Faculty Mentoring Program: the mentoring program is designed to support first and second year faculty members by pairing them with a faculty mentor in each college. Support includes resources for teaching and RTP, networking, and community building.
- Lecturer Mentor: FDEV also continued supporting a lecturer mentor that helps lecturer faculty as they navigate Chico State's resources, especially in relation to entitlement in the department, range elevation, and other matters related to teaching, learning, and professional development opportunities. The lecturer mentor also planned the second annual lecturer academy.

READI

- Outreach Efforts: in its first year of existence, the READI hub put forward a strong outreach campaign to try to reach all departments on campus. The READI coordinator and fellows presented EDI resources to 37/44 departments, in addition to a whole presentation at the annual College of ECC meeting.
- READI Coordinator and Equity Fellows: FDEV worked with the READI coordinator and seven equity fellows to develop READI's goals and projects, including teaching guides, assessment of FDEV programs, a teaching certificate, and the creation of antiracist teaching objectives with the Curriculum Advisory Board.
- Assessment of FDEV Programs: READI fellows assessed the impact of FDEV programs offered between 2020 and 2022 to determine what works best for faculty professional development.
- Grants: the READI hub was awarded a \$200,000 grant by the National Science Foundation to offer a 3-year FLC focusing on UDL principles in STEM courses.
- Teaching Certificate: READI fellows designed a teaching certificate which FDEV plans to launch in spring 2024.

Tools and Resources

- FDEV Podcast: the podcast focuses on themes that match the University's strategic priorities.
- FDEV Media Channel: the FDEV media channel includes recordings of most of the workshops and events organized by faculty development between 2020 and 2023.
- FDEV Virtual Library: the virtual library includes a number of ebooks available to the Chico State community organized by topics that center faculty's professional development.
- FDEV Zine: the FDEV zine allows FDEV to share information and resources available.
- Grades and Equity Gaps Dashboard: the dashboard was developed as a collaboration with Institutional Research and the GI2025 team. The dashboard is used for a number of FDEV initiatives including FLCs, a series on equity, and other workshops.
- Teaching Guides: the teaching guides offer easy-to-navigate resources and best practices in a number of teaching and learning areas. All teaching guides follow the principles of Universal Design for Learning.
- Model Course Design: the Model Course Design is a database of course portfolios available for all faculty to browse and get ideas about course design, assessment, and student engagement.
- FDEV Resources: this page offers a list of resources from FDEV and facilitates their access and navigation.
- New Faculty Resources: this page was designed for new faculty specifically and offers immediate resources for their transition to Chico State.
- Teaching Resources: this page offers a collection of resources and best practices in relation to teaching and learning in a number of areas (course design and delivery, assessment, inclusive teaching, digital learning, and evaluation of teaching).

Graduate Studies

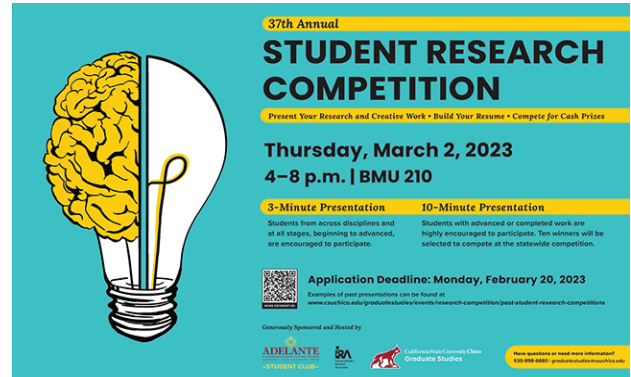


Innovative Program Strives to Protect the Wildlands of the West

A small hub of passionate graduate students and faculty at Chico State decided to take an active role and created [one of the most effective and unique land management graduate programs in the California State University system](#), ultimately redirecting the future of wildland management in California.

Wildland Management Master's Student Driven to Preserve Natural Spaces

A few years after Ben Chang finished his bachelor's degree at Chico State, his beloved Wentle camp five miles east of Willits nearly succumbed to the 2020 Walker Fire. Chang challenged himself to learn more about necessary action to battle climate change and prevent such future scenarios. He subsequently enrolled in Chico State's interdisciplinary wildlands management master's degree program and [today is learning all he can](#) both in the classroom and the field. His experiential learning at the University's Big Chico Creek Ecological Reserve taught him the science behind wildfires, how logging without forest regeneration and fire practices have altered forest ecology, and measures to try to reverse climate change.



Winners of Chico State's Annual Student Research Competition

The 37th Annual Student Research Competition was held on Thursday, March 2, hosted by the Office of Graduate Studies and sponsored by the Adelante Club, Instructionally Related Activities, the Office of the Provost, and Undergraduate Education. [Fifty-eight outstanding students signed up to participate](#) in the competition for two types of presentations. For a list of the winners, please visit the [2023 top presenters page](#) on the Graduate Studies website.

CSU Student Research Competition

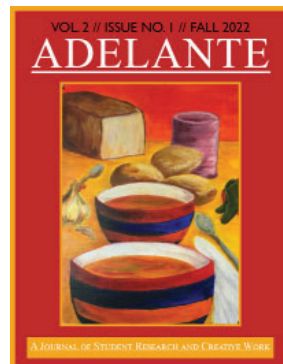
In April 2023, ten Chico State students delivered exceptional academic presentations at the 37th Annual CSU Statewide Student Research Competition hosted by San Diego State University. The competition featured 250 participants from all 23 CSU campuses. Each student's outstanding presentation was a testament to their hard work and dedication to their fields of study, highlighting the outstanding research and academic work produced by Chico State students. Notably, two of our students, Christopher Robinson,

and Sam Lloyd-Harry, earned second place in their respective sessions. More information about the statewide competition and the [complete list](#) of all finalists can be found on their [website](#).

Adelante Postbaccalaureate Pipeline Program Continues to Find Success

The Adelante Postbaccalaureate Pipeline Program, supported by a \$3 million Title V Developing Hispanic Serving Institutions grant, continues to make a significant impact at Chico State. Impressively, 99% of graduate student participants have either been retained or successfully graduated. Graduation rates for first-time freshmen and transfer students also continue to surpass the University's average. Furthermore, the Adelante Wayfinders Mentoring Program has demonstrated outstanding success, as undergraduate mentees have applied to graduate programs at more than twice the rate of the general student population.

Adelante master's students also continue to be accepted into esteemed doctoral programs. This year Gelsey Aldana, an accomplished Adelante outreach coordinator and 2023 master's graduate in psychological science, has been accepted into the doctoral psychology program at Loma Linda University, and Juan Vega Ramirez, a former recipient of the Adelante Summer Research Award, will pursue his PhD in history at the University of California, Davis. We wish them all the best as they pursue their academic goals. In another milestone, the year 2023 marked the publication of the second volume of the esteemed [Adelante Journal of Research and Creative Work](#), showcasing the scholarly contributions of Adelante participants. These notable accomplishments underscore the success and impact of the Adelante program, empowering individuals to reach their full potential and pursue advanced studies. As Chico State celebrates



the achievements of these exceptional individuals, it reaffirms its commitment to fostering excellence and creating opportunities for success.

Graduate Studies Awarded the Promoting Postbaccalaureate Opportunities for Hispanic Americans Award

The Office of Graduate Studies is thrilled to announce that it was awarded the prestigious Promoting Postbaccalaureate Opportunities for Hispanic Americans (PPOHA) Award. This highly regarded recognition comes with a substantial \$3 million grant (set to commence in October 2023) that will help to ensure that Hispanic and low-income students have more opportunities for educational growth and success. The primary focus of this grant is to expand postbaccalaureate educational opportunities for Hispanic students and improve their academic attainment. Additionally, it aims to enhance the program quality and diversity of postbaccalaureate academic offerings in higher education institutions that serve a significant number of Hispanic and low-income students. By prioritizing the educational advancement of these students, the grant seeks to support increased postsecondary degree completion rates. We look forward to furthering our efforts in promoting academic excellence and ensuring equitable access to higher education for Hispanic and low-income students.

Graduate Studies Awarded the Governor's Award for 2023-2024

The Office of Graduate Studies was honored to be selected as the recipient of the 2023-2024 Governor's Award by the Chico State University Foundation Board of Governors. This recognition brings invaluable support, as it will help to cover the application fees for undergraduate students who apply to Chico State graduate programs. By alleviating the financial burden of application fees, this initiative aims to enhance accessibility and foster a more inclusive environment for prospective graduate students while furthering the University's recruitment

priorities. This significant achievement underscores Graduate Studies' commitment to encouraging academic excellence as students pursue advanced education at Chico State.

Awards and Recognition:

Outstanding Graduate Thesis and Project

Outstanding Project Award

He-Lo Ramirez (MS, Interdisciplinary Studies: Wildland Management) was awarded Outstanding Project for 2023. His project entitled "Improving Northwestern Maidu Education in Northern California: A Need for and Creation of Place-Based Culturally Relevant Curricula," is a solid contribution to the work of creating more diverse, relevant, and critical pedagogy for our communities of the North State. His choice of topic, discussion of the relevant literature, and use of theory are exemplary. In the nomination for this project, it was noted that this project is one of the first to come from the newly launched interdisciplinary studies major in wildland management at Chico State. It is fitting and appropriate that the work is done by and for the Native people of this region. While the projects from wildland management will vary greatly, the current work is an excellent example and is to be commended. In their discussion, the committee expressed hope that Ramirez will consider extending this work, perhaps in a PhD program, where he can further the theory and contributions of his scholarship.

Committee: Sara Trechter, PhD, Chair, and Rachel McBride-Praetorius, MA.



Outstanding Thesis Award
Samuel L. Winter (MS, Psychology, '22) was awarded "Outstanding Thesis" for 2023. He wrote and conducted a strong thesis entitled "The Impact of Clinician-Perpetrated Sexual

and Gender Minority Microaggressions Upon Client Perceptions in Psychotherapy." His review of the literature and outline of his methods were clear and well-written. His data analysis was scientifically sound, and his critical discussion of the results and implications were relevant and timely. In his nomination, his advisers note that this study is without question relevant to the field of psychology as the topic focuses on the practice of psychotherapy. In addition to the author's contribution to the field of psychology, the author clearly advances many of the Chico State's strategic goals. This study undoubtedly displays that the author is a responsible citizen and is able to think critically about diverse matters. The selection committee agreed and commended Winter for his contributions to the work of the University and the field of psychology.

Committee: Mathew Withers, PhD, Chair, Marie Lippmann, PhD, and David Hibbard, PhD.

Chancellor's Doctoral Incentive Fellows and Sally Casanova Pre-Doctoral Program

Two Chico State graduate students were selected recipients of the highly esteemed Sally Casanova Pre-Doctoral Scholar Award for the 2023–2024 academic year: Arely Saldana (MA, Psychology, '20), an Adelante outreach coordinator and incoming president of the Adelante Club, as well as president-elect of the Council of Graduate Students; and Recamier Jauregui-Ocampo (MA, Psychology, '22), a recipient of the Adelante Summer Research Award in the summer of 2023. This remarkable achievement highlights the outstanding academic dedication and potential of our graduate students and Adelante program participants.

Michael Pratt Awarded the Outstanding Advisor Award for 2023

Michael Pratt (MA, Education, '18; MPA, '18), an Admissions Coordinator in the Office of Graduate Studies and a Chico State alum, was awarded the "Outstanding Advisor Award" by Student Organizations and Leadership Education for the 2022–2023 academic year in

recognition of his exceptional service as the advisor to the Council of Graduate Students. His dedication and invaluable contributions during his tenure exemplified the highest standards of advising, making him a true guiding light for graduate students. We are proud of Pratt's unwavering support and commitment to graduate students.

Graduate Student Farmer Grows Case for Marrying Agriculture With the Natural World

Raquel Krach (pictured) and her husband, Greg Massa, are co-owners of [Massa Organics](#). She recently completed her master's degree in interdisciplinary studies through [Chico State's Center for Regenerative Agriculture and Resilient Systems](#). With the completion of her master's thesis—a [study on the effects of regenerative agriculture on an almond orchard on their 250-acre organic farm](#)—she has proof beyond the peeps and chirps of her feathered farmmates that her efforts are paying off.



Can Psychedelic Drugs Treat Mental Illness?

Ty Weber, who served in the US Marine Corps for more than four years, is now pursuing a master of science degree in the marriage and family therapy program. Weber witnessed many of his fellow soldiers suffer from PTSD, anxiety, and depression, both during active duty and when they returned to civilian life. He was inspired to [focus his research on whether psychedelic drugs such as psilocybin, LSD, MDMA, ketamine, and peyote can create lasting positive effects when it comes to treating mental health](#).

Earth and Environmental Sciences Graduate Student Driven by Social Issues

Science is just about [Claire-Marie Kooi](#)'s favorite topic. Whether mulling over ideas with her father (a retired physicist), as an earth and environmental sciences graduate student at Chico State, or in discussion with undergraduate students at the University of California, Berkeley, she feels at home, confident, and empowered when researching and exchanging ideas about science.

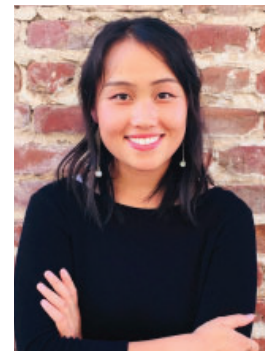


Grad Slam 2023



Rocci Vizzusi (left), a graduate student in the psychological science master's program with faculty mentor Alexander Wong, and Pa Yang (right), also from the psychological science master's program with faculty mentor Martin

van den Berg, [proudly represented our campus at the second annual statewide CSU Grad Slam on May 5, 2023](#). The CSU Grad Slam is an inspiring and fast-paced event where graduate students showcase their research, scholarship, and creativity in concise presentations lasting three minutes or less. This year's competition, hosted by California State University, San Diego, took place virtually on Zoom, bringing together participants from across the CSU system.



US Dept of Education Grant to Assist Graduate and Credential Education Students

[The US Department of Education announced it was allocating \\$13.4 million](#)

over three years to the Northern California Growing Responsive, Equitable, Adaptable and Transformative (GREAT) Teachers Pipeline project. For Chico State, this will fully fund:

- 100 credential candidates each year for three years/cohorts at 100% (300 students), \$25,000 per student, \$7,500,000 total
- 15 Master's students each year/cohort at 100% (up to 45 students), \$1,260,000 total

This program, led by the School of Education, provides financial and administrative support, as well as industry guidance, to prospective students throughout their college journey and into a classroom of their own.



Grad Studies Rocks Giving Day 2023



With a modest monetary goal and a vital cause, Graduate Studies took part in the annual Giving Day in March of 2023.

The one-day fundraising event was a great success as not only was the goal surpassed, but Graduate Studies ended the day in

an impressive third-place position on the leaderboard, resulting in additional funding for their cause—the Pipeline to Success Fund. This fund aims to empower first-generation, low-income, and underserved undergraduate and graduate students. By helping to remove the financial barriers students face, the fund aims to provide support as students participate in research opportunities, internships, and professional development. Graduate Studies would like to extend their heartfelt gratitude to all who generously contributed to the fund.



International Education and Global Engagement



Fulbright HSI Leader and US Scholar Program Top Producing Institution

For the second time in as many years, Chico State has been recognized by the US Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs as a [2022 Fulbright HSI Leader](#) for our noteworthy engagement with the Fulbright Program. The Fulbright Program creates opportunities for US students and faculty to study, teach, and conduct research abroad, and for their international counterparts to engage in like activities in the US. Chico State was named a [Fulbright US Scholar Program Top Producing Institution](#) for the 2021–2022 academic year. Three successful Chico State Fulbright US Scholars were selected for that year: [Jesse Dizard](#) (Anthropology), [Brian Brazeal](#) (Anthropology), and [Lee Altier](#) (Agriculture), which placed Chico State at the #2 spot for the US Scholar Program among masters-granting institutions.

Jacque Chase (Professor Emerita, Geography and Planning) was selected as a Fulbright US Scholar for 2023–24 for her research on fire in Portugal. Chase's research proposal, "Rural Revitalization and Thriving with Fire in Portugal," will take place in central Portugal, an area of repeated devastating fires, but also an area where many families are settling the land to farm in sustainable ways, complementing her research in Paradise where she has looked at displacement after the Camp Fire.



Since 2016, approximately 1,600 Chico State students have studied abroad—numbers that rank the University in the top 20 sending institutions nationwide, according to the Institute of International Education (IIE). While travel trends remain impacted by COVID-19, this last academic cycle saw 153 Wildcats venture abroad, signaling the start of a new upswing.

Most international students plan to complete the entirety of their degree here, while some have chosen Chico as a study abroad destination—enriching their lives and the local community simultaneously. Making these exchanges possible are the dedicated staff at International Education and Global Engagement (IEGE), which provides a network of support services that cover just about every logistical and practical concern pertaining to student travel. For each and every student, the team checks in throughout every stay to make sure our Wildcats have everything they need.

[Click to read six stories](#) from students who've gone abroad or come to Chico State from afar.

The Passport Place at Chico State

After being closed due to COVID-19 since March of 2020, the [IEGE US Passport Acceptance Facility](#) (The Passport Place) reopened on February 14, 2022 and IEGE staff have served 1,508 passport applicants since that date.

IIE American Passport Project Awardee

Chico State was selected among the second cohort for the [Institute for International Education \(IIE\)](#)

[American Passport Project](#). Through this opportunity, 25 Chico State Pell-eligible, first-year US students were awarded funds to obtain their US passport, and allowing many to get one step closer to studying abroad.



Presidential Recognition of Global Engagement

In spring 2021, IEGE launched the [Presidential Recognition of Global Engagement](#), awarded to students with demonstrated achievement in language learning, cultural immersion, global perspectives, and cross-cultural learning and service. This award helps students and employers identify and conceptualize the valuable knowledge and skills that Chico State students have gained through international engagement, which in



turn, will assist them in their careers and lifelong achievement. This year's recipients were Victoria Villaseñor (history and multicultural and gender studies, above) and Humberto Partida (political science and international relations, left).



Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship Recipients

The Gilman Scholarship is a program of the US Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA). It is a highly competitive scholarship that aims to encourage students to study and intern in a diverse array of countries and study languages, especially critical need languages. Its mission is to develop a generation of future American leaders who represent the rich diversity of the US and have the international networks and skills to advance national security, economic prosperity and mutual understanding across countries. This 2022–2023 academic year, five Chico State students were selected and awarded scholarships ranging from \$2,000 to \$7,000. The recipients are *James "Duke" Morales (business administration)*, *Zachary Salas Burgess (German)*, *Anthony Viola (history)*, *Leila Afshari (international relations and public administration)*, and *Cory Croker (business information systems)*.

Collaborative Online International Learning (COIL)

[COIL](#) has expanded significantly since its launch in summer 2020. A COIL [Faculty Learning Community](#) is facilitated by IEGE in conjunction with the SUNY COIL center each semester, many professors continue with COIL implementation into one or more courses each term. Participating Chico State faculty have established new international teaching connections in the Netherlands, Brazil, China, Mexico, Chile, Spain, Venezuela, Italy, Hong Kong, Colombia, Germany, Ukraine, the Philippines, and Finland. IEGE's COIL outreach has expanded the international teaching, publication and research portfolio of our professors, increasing the global competence and intercultural capabilities of hundreds of students at Chico State, along with their counterparts abroad. This project is changing the ways we internationalize our curriculum on campus into the future.

International Student Ambassador Fellowship

Established in spring 2021, the International Student Ambassador (ISA) Fellowship is a leadership development and peer mentorship program for Chico State International Wildcats. These future leaders receive extensive coaching in project management, event planning, interpersonal and intercultural communication, career development, professionalism and customer service.

ISAs are committed to building a sense of place and a welcoming community for all students interested in expanding their global profiles. In 2023–24, six international student ambassadors will serve as global ambassadors in support of the international admissions and retention efforts at Chico State:

Dhruv Bahl (computer science), Dev Kachiwala (chemistry), Amarmurun Erdenetuya (business administration), Sunshine Verma (psychology), Tatsuya Hori (business information systems), and Nhung Pham (biology).

International Wildcat Program

International Student and Scholar Services provides programming for all new and continuing international students, National Student Exchange participants, and recent returnees from study abroad programs. Efforts include weekly “Global Café” English conversation hours and multiple large cultural events per semester to build community and a sense of place for our international Wildcats.

ESL Support Services

[English as a Second Language \(ESL\) Support Services](#) continued to expand its online and in-person tutoring operations in 2022–23. 412 students received tutoring from ESLSS through 1,617 tutoring sessions in the 2022–23 AY. 36% of students identified as heritage learners, and 64% identified as international students. Staff provided workshops and individual consultation for faculty working with linguistically-diverse students; they also worked one-on-one with international faculty and visiting scholars.



Study Abroad and Exchange National Ranking

In its latest [Open Doors](#) rankings for the 2020–21 academic year (the most recent year for which data is available), the IIE ranked Chico State's [Study Abroad and Exchange Program](#) among master's colleges and universities for short-term duration participation as a leading institution.

Study Abroad and Exchange Scholarships Awarded

In the 2022–23 AY, roughly \$93,100 in scholarships were awarded to Chico State Study Abroad participants. From the Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship Program, Freeman–ASIA award, HFA grants, partner affiliate awards, and GI2025 summer study abroad grants, students are able to apply these awards towards their international programs and internships and make progress toward degree while engaging in high-impact global learning.

International Admissions and Outreach

Chico State/IEGE has digital and in-person recruitment presence in 60+ national markets across five continents. International Admissions and Outreach has expanded Chico State's digital presence internationally through creative marketing and recruitment efforts. This includes Google display ads in key foreign city markets, student-created and professional promotional videos with subtitles in multiple languages, and program-specific recruitment webinars with faculty, alumni, and current international students.

Technology and Learning Program



Welcome to Canvas! You've enrolled in one or more courses that have not started yet. Once those courses are available, you will see information about them here and in the navigation. In the meantime, feel free to sign up for more courses or set up your profile.



Dashboard



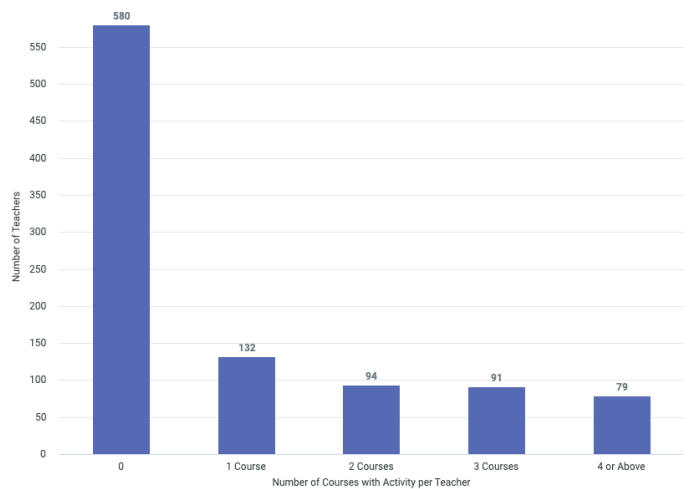
Recent Activity

Migrating to Canvas, a New Learning Management System

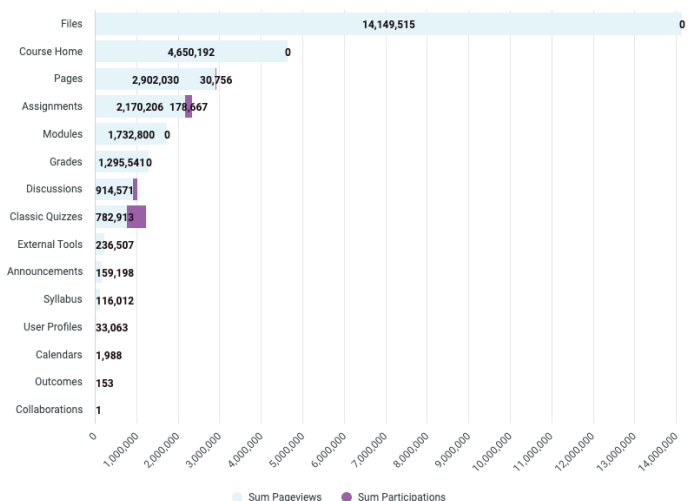
The system dedicated to the heart of Chico State's mission of teaching and learning is the Learning Management System (LMS). Faculty and students rely on this system every day to engage in the teaching and learning process. Chico's Blackboard LMS was implemented back in 2012 and the age of this system was showing in its interface and difficulty of students and faculty using it. Sixteen CSU campuses had already migrated off their old LMS and had moved to the newest emerging LMS, Canvas, along with all California community colleges. The State of California incentivized the CSU to move to an "intersegmental" LMS and budget gave the CSU an additional \$2M of base funds to move the other seven CSU campuses to Canvas and that included Chico State. Starting January 2022, Learning Technologies Services (LTS) and the Technology and Learning Program (TLP) began planning the installation, configuration, and migration from Blackboard to Canvas. In May 2022, TLP launched "Canvas Day in May" to begin showing the new interface and features of Canvas to faculty. In collaboration with CMT, three videos were created for students to prepare them for the change. By fall 2022, TLP had prepared 25 faculty of the "Canvas Crew" to use the new LMS with their students. Transfer students enjoyed the familiarity of Canvas from their California community college days and new students felt that Canvas was much easier to navigate and use than Blackboard. These changes empowered student success by improving the student learning experience. In spring 2023, 40% of Chico State faculty

launched their courses in Canvas. TLP continued to offer a faculty online course "Getting Started with Canvas," workshops, "ten-minute" tasks, college champions presentations, and department Canvas orientations and webinars to prepare more faculty to begin migrating and teaching their courses in Canvas. Students will be grateful to have only one LMS to use for fall 2023, the first semester where everyone will be using Canvas, not Blackboard.

Teacher Use of Canvas Courses



Interactions by Category



Undergraduate Education



Chico State Program Encourages Students to Give Back Home

Director of civic engagement Ann Schulte designed the [Giving Back Home Program](#). It is an opportunity for students to elevate their voices and engage in their home community. The program gives faculty an outlet to help connect curriculum in relevant ways, as students can take what they are learning at Chico State to their communities. The program also helps strengthen the University's relationships with smaller communities, particularly rural counties in the North State, she said.

Author Thi Bui Brings Her Unique Experiences to Chico State

Author and illustrator Thi Bui [brought her story to Chico State](#) in April for the [2022-2023 Book in Common](#) talk. Bui, who came to the United States as a Vietnamese refugee, wrote and illustrated a graphic novel about her family in the years before, during, and after the Vietnam war, called *The Best We Could Do*. [The Book in Common](#) is a shared community read designed to promote discussion and understanding of important issues facing the broader community. Next year's Book in Common is [How the Word is Passed: A Reckoning with the History of Slavery Across America](#), by Clint Smith.



New Director of Civic Engagement Appointment

Undergraduate Education is pleased to announce the appointment of Amy Magnus, political science and criminal justice, as [the new director of civic engagement](#), effective fall 2023. Her research and teaching interests stem from her long-standing grassroots activism and organizing experience and her passion for social justice. Magnus has served as a Civic Engagement Faculty Fellow since 2021, where she was responsible for voter outreach and education. A champion of course-based community learning, Magnus has also helped educate faculty about [Collaboratory](#), our community engagement and public service database.



Redesigned Honors Program Shows Exponential Growth

2022-23 saw the launch of a fully redesigned honors in general education program committed to equitable enrollment growth and graduation rates. The program has already seen significant year-on-year increases: a 100% increase in spring semester graduates with honors in general education, a 209% increase in admitted students following "Choose Chico," and a 95% increase in matriculated students on the first day of summer orientation for fall 2023.



First-Year Experience Launches New Program for Undeclared Students

Beginning with summer orientation 2023, “Major Quest” will help first-year students who come to Chico without a declared major “find their passion, discover their purpose, and choose their academic path.” Incoming undeclared students will be provided with peer mentor and a faculty or staff ally, a dedicate professional advisor, a specially designed GE course to explore academic identity and research on college success, a major exploration series to get to know Chico’s colleges and their programs, and workshops and social events to build community.



REACH Students’ Service Projects Extend Support to Community

This spring, [115 students in Chico State’s Raising Educational Achievement in Collaborative Hubs \(REACH\) program](#) embraced the opportunity to make a positive impact on their new community while also learning to navigate the transition to college. Their service projects addressed everything from mental health awareness to homelessness to animal welfare throughout Chico.



Chico State’s Meriam Library Gets A New Affinity Space for Rural Students

The Office of Civic Engagement recently [opened a new space for rural students](#) in Meriam Library. Known as the “Regional Affinity Space,” this area allows for students from rural counties including Glenn, Colusa, Sutter, Yuba, Siskiyou, Modoc, Trinity, Shasta, Tehama, Plumas, Butte and Lassen to come and meet other students from rural communities who share similar experiences.



Budget and Academic Resources

2022-23 Academic Affairs Division General Fund Operating Budget **\$127,157,064**

Academic Affairs General Fund Expenditures

	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22*	2022-23
Revenue	(2,265,326)	(3,000,468)	(3,270,364)	(3,013,952)	(3,964,104)
Salaries and Wages	86,634,722	87,312,288	83,646,133	76,886,532	84,038,556
Benefits	44,814,437	45,588,477	43,718,166	39,540,888	45,017,934
Work Study	1,108,636	1,092,078	647,714	711,689	796,631
Other Expenses	8,520,161	8,624,031	7,731,264	7,176,105	5,765,203
Total	138,812,630	139,616,406	132,472,912	121,301,263	131,654,221

*IRES moved out from under AA and became its own division

AA Consolidated Course Fee Expenditures

	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
Travel	24,020	13,387	5,834	13,714	16,075
Information Technology Costs	45,774	64,545	81,104	57,276	99,606
Equipment	21,995	13,929	8,705	10,325	0
Other Expenses	542,986	556,459	384,131	418,886	346,643
Total	634,776	648,320	479,774	500,201	462,325

AA Student Learning Fee Expenditures

	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
Salaries, Wages and Benefits	146,079	274,731	330,727	512,058	529,207
Equipment	398,886	314,839	308,439	150,273	349,170
Information Technology Costs	220,257	280,202	141,946	206,589	259,108
Other Expenses	352,165	571,808	465,250	473,685	526,919
Total	1,117,387	1,441,580	1,246,362	1,342,605	1,664,403

AA Instructionally-Related Activities Expenditures

	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
Salaries, Wages and Benefits	125,696	215,225	63,328	173,690	239,045
Travel	311,554	235,964	134,784	0	168,387
Other Expenses	503,982	760,210	294,942	646,662	660,187
Total	865,641	1,110,219	358,270	988,739	1,210,786

AA Lottery Expenditures

	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
Salaries, Wages and Benefits	68,700	37,770	59,749	119,708	116,610
Library Acquisitions	842,185	852,060	831,902	919,160	940,541
Other Expenses	454,508	274,933	278,592	343,096	388,579
Total	1,365,393	1,164,763	1,170,242	1,381,965	1,445,730

Chico State Enterprises



As of June 30, 2023, faculty and associates of Chico State successfully competed for over \$60.5M in grants and contracts to perform basic and applied research, training, specialized services and other education-related activities. The awarded programs reflect the campus's rich diversity of expert capabilities, including strategic partnerships impacting our community, the region and beyond. The following are highlights for FY2023.

Ancestral Land in Butte Creek Canyon Returned to the Mechoopda Tribe

In the [first agreement of its kind in California](#), ownership and management of the 93-acre Butte Creek Ecological Preserve was transferred from Chico State Enterprises (CSE) to the Mechoopda Indian Tribe to manage, protect, restore, and steward the land as it recovers from the Camp Fire. Under the terms of the zero-dollar, [land-transfer agreement](#) that was approved by the California Wildlife Conservation Board, no buildings or structures can be built on the property and it will continue to be utilized for conservation and educational purposes. Through a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between CSE and the Mechoopda, Chico State faculty and staff will have the ability to access the property to conduct research and field trips for K-12 students throughout the North State will continue.

CalFresh Outreach

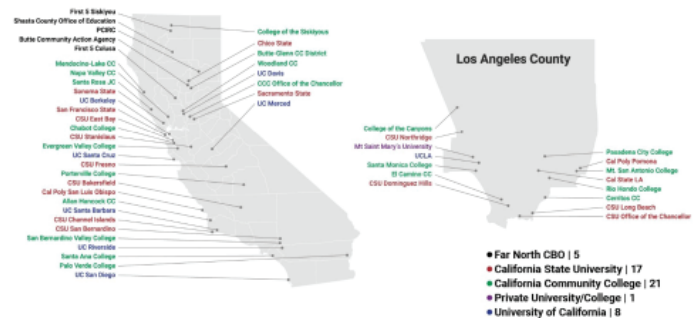


Stephanie Bianco, professor in the Department of Nutrition and Food Science and director of the Center for Healthy Communities (CHC), secured a \$23,837,046 grant from the California Department of Social

Services for continued funding to support CalFresh Outreach (CFO) efforts in the North State and on college campuses across California to increase California's CalFresh food participation rate. Activities assist potentially eligible community members and college students in applying for CalFresh and in maintaining their benefits as long as they are eligible, thereby decreasing food insecurity and poverty, and increasing health and student academic success.

The CHC serves as the prime contractor to provide program, fiscal, and data support oversight of 46-50 campus and community subcontracting sites across the state.

CFO HIGHER ED & FAR NORTH NETWORK FFY 2022-2024



Efforts by Chico State Enterprises and Multi-Agency Collaboration are Restoring Water Channels in the North State



In an example of increasing cooperation between public agencies, [restoration teams have completed excavation](#) of the Kapuska Open Space Side Channel off the Sacramento River near Redding. Restoration

was possible due to \$10 million in channel restoration grants from the Federal Bureau of Reclamation as well as the California Department of Fish and Wildlife. Those agencies implemented the project, through a cooperative agreement to Chico State Enterprises under the direction of Jason Schwenkler, working within the college of behavioral and social sciences, and project partners including the Sacramento River Forum of Red Bluff, California Department of Water Resources, River Partners, the Yurok Tribe and Tussing Ecological Sciences of Red Bluff. [The project was completed and celebrated in May.](#)

Graduate Education and Access to Opportunity Program (GREAT-OP)

Dean of Graduate Studies Sharon Barrios was awarded \$3,000,000 in funding from the US Department of Education to implement a five-year comprehensive program to increase the enrollment of Latinx and other underrepresented groups in Chico State graduate programs and provide support to ensure their successful degree attainment and transition into professional opportunities in their fields upon graduation. The Graduate Education Access and Opportunity Program includes a fellowship component. The "Great-Op Equity Fellowship," is focused on attracting and supporting more Latinx and other underrepresented undergraduate students to apply to, enroll in, and successfully transition to selected professional graduate programs.

Nonprofit CalTrout Aims to Improve Fish Spawning Habitat in Butte County and the Surrounding Region

One day, Chinook salmon and other native fish will have better access to ancient spawning grounds up Big Chico Creek and other local freshwater tributaries thanks to regional efforts in restoring fish habitat. CalTrout, a statewide conservation nonprofit, [opened its seventh office in Chico this month](#) to focus on improving fish spawning and rearing habitats in Butte, Tehama, and Shasta counties. CalTrout is working on the project with the Chico State Big Chico Creek Ecological Reserve under the direction of Executive Director Eli Goodsell, in collaboration with the Mechoopda Indian Tribe of Chico Rancheria and the city of Chico.



Big Chico Creek Ecological Reserve is Helping to Heal

A small program run by Chico State is using nature therapy walks to help fire survivors recover by using the Japanese practice of "[forest bathing](#)." Blake Ellis runs the [Ecotherapy program](#) and has guided dozens of sessions. "The forest is the therapist; the guide opens the door," she said.

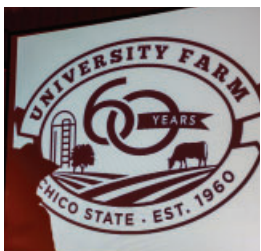
As CSE approaches its fourth year of operations, sponsored program activities are on track to experience another year of significant, double-digit growth. CSE administration continues its work of revamping, reorganizing, and growing various aspects of operations including the addition of staff hires and two new management positions to ensure delivery of high quality, responsive services to the campus community.

College of Agriculture



Chico State Receives over \$18 Million in State Funding to Build and Renovate Experiential Learning Facilities at the University Farm

Chico State's [College of Agriculture has been allocated \\$18.75 million](#) in one-time funding from the State of California's 2022-23 budget to enhance student experiential learning and training at its University Farm. The University will use the financial support to build a new Agriculture Learning Center, to acquire and implement precision agricultural technology, and renovate and modernize its existing facilities—many of which are more than 50 years old.



Chico State University Farm Celebrates 60th Anniversary

For more than 60 years, the University Farm at Chico State has played a vital role in educating the agricultural leaders of tomorrow, conducting research to benefit a global industry, and raising crops and livestock that help feed the greater community. On Saturday, November 5, the public were invited to attend a free [60th anniversary celebration](#) to learn all about the farm, honor its impact, and mark more than six decades of serving the North State.

USDA Awards \$5 Million Dollar Grant

A [5 million dollar grant was given to Chico State from the USDA](#) to teach local small farmers how to produce using sustainable practices and help market climate-smart produce.

Dean Patricia Stock Visits Chile

[Dean Stock made several stops throughout Chile](#) to discuss the agricultural industry and open doors for numerous future collaborations and opportunities for students and faculty at Chico State.

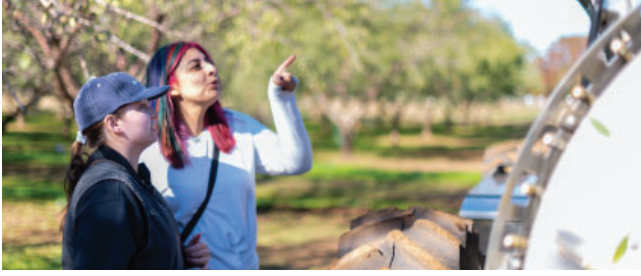
State Investment in CSU Agricultural Programs for a Sustainable, Resilient Future

Researchers at the CSU are seeking ways to make agricultural practices more sustainable and climate-resilient to ensure the industry will meet future global needs. To support these endeavors, the [California 2022-23 state budget awarded the CSU one-time funding of \\$75 million](#), split evenly between Chico State, Fresno State, Cal Poly Pomona, and Cal Poly San Luis Obispo.

College of Agriculture Names Ricardo Orellana New Farm Director

[Orellana comes from Cornell University](#), where he served as an extension associate for the Produce Safety Alliance Program, overseeing and coordinating regional, national and international training programs related to compliance regulations and market demands for food safety.





Technology meets Agriculture at University Farm

Cutting edge technology was the focus of the inaugural [Precision Ag Day at the Chico State University Farm](#).

Students Representing the Future of Agriculture Show off Their Skills

At four Chico-area locations, young people who represent agriculture's future practitioners were hard at work demonstrating their skills for judges at the [54th annual Field Day](#). Students had the opportunity to advance in a Future Farmers of America California competition and enhance their own personal growth.

USDA Selects Chico State to Compete in the 2023 Agricultural Export Market Challenge

The US Department of Agriculture's Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS), in cooperation with the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities (HACU), announced the selection of 16 minority-serving educational institutions which will participate in the [2023 USDA Agricultural Export Market Challenge](#).

Chico State is one of 16 Colleges selected to participate in the challenge. The challenge first launched in 2022 as an immersive learning experience for undergraduate students. Participating teams explore the work of FAS and accrue knowledge and skills in diplomacy, economics, marketing, scientific analysis, and trade policy.

Hanna Scully and **Kassidi McLeod**, both agribusiness majors at Chico State, were [among 42 students](#) across California and Arizona awarded an AEF Educational Scholarship from UnitedAg.

Chico State Leads the Way in Climate-Smart Farming Practices

Raquel Krach, whose background is in biology and ecology, sees tremendous value in collaborating with the [University's Center for Regenerative Agriculture and Resilient Systems \(CRARS\)](#). "Having the center at Chico State allows for a verification process that shows that the farmers doing these kinds of practices are actually making a difference. We're able to quantify the changes happening in the soil and produce," she said.

Life of Hard Work Pays Off for Agricultural Business Major



[Zion Brigham](#) learned to squeeze every minute out of the day, and took advantage of every opportunity Chico State had to offer. "I tell people that when I came to Chico it felt like going from a black and white TV to full color," Brigham said. "The professors at Chico State really want to be involved and that's such a cool part of being here."

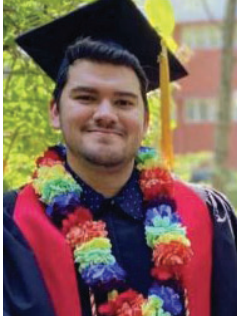


Animal Science Major Embraces Role of Lead Shepherd in Sheep Unit

Since arriving at Chico State in fall 2019, Manny Lopez has been an integral part of the University Farm's Sheep Unit and today serves as its lead shepherd. [Learn more about him at Chico State Today](#).

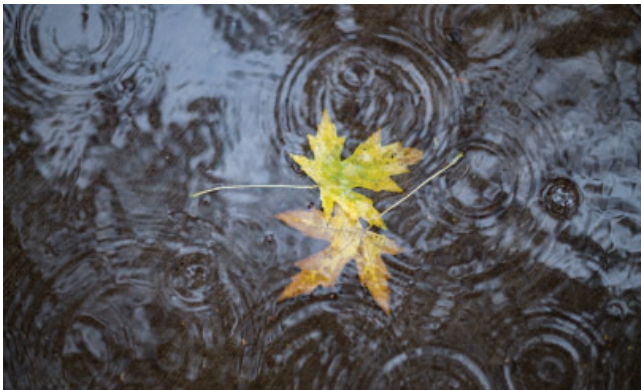
Chico State Student Writes About LGBTQ+ Agriculture Educators and Their Critical Role

Saul Reyes, a Chico State plant and social science/multicultural and gender studies double major, writes that “to believe in the



future of agriculture also means to support and believe in our ag teachers. For many of us, including myself, our ag teachers are the ones who exposed us to the expansive field of agriculture. Diversity and identity is part of that

expanse, and [LGBTQ+ identifying leaders and ag educators](#) share here what it means to be their best true and authentic selves.” Chico alums Darren Arceo (pictured) and Jason Ferreira are interviewed in the article.



Water Expert, Professor/Hydrogeologist Jeffrey Davids, Explains How the Rain is Impacting our Groundwater

Rain continues to fall day after day, but experts say it still will not be enough to really replenish our groundwater. [Davids said](#) it took us many years to get this dry, so it is also going to take some time to get out of the drought. “Groundwater is starting to respond depending on where you are, but we are kind of in a hole that has been caused by several years of drought and continued pumping,” said Davids. “The slower the water comes in general, the better, because the less of it is going to runoff and the more of it is actually going to come down and infiltrate into our ground water systems.”



Inside the “RAD-Lab”: Looking to the Ground for Solutions

The Regenerative Agriculture Demonstration Lab, otherwise known as the RAD-Lab, is the [brainchild of Garrett Liles \(MA, Interdisciplinary, '02\)](#), a professor in Chico State’s College of Agriculture. What began as an idea in grad school has become a service lab where soil health and food nutrient density assessments happen across applied research projects. This in turn supports the Center for Regenerative Agriculture and Resilient Systems’ efforts to help farmers implement regenerative agricultural practices like cover cropping, grazing, compost application, and tillage reduction.

Chico State Faculty Bring Industry Partners Together to Provide Ag Legacy Symposium for Producers in North State

On February 25, faculty member Kasey DeAtley and Program Coordinator Eric Houk hosted a collaborative research project workshop for Northern California producers to attend to learn about the importance and process of developing an ag legacy plan. The symposium also featured personal producer perspectives from producers who have had to face the challenges of being without a legacy plan and what they had to endure in order to save their operations and the benefit of creating their plan now. The event was sponsored by the College of Agriculture, University of California Cooperative Extension, USDA NIFA, and the California Beef Cattle Improvement Association.

Chico State Beef Unit Succeeds at Red Bluff Bull and Gelding Sale Competition

Beef Unit students Katie Brown, Jaycee Norris, Sydney Smith, Mitch Barker, Riley Taylor, Katie Coe, Maddie Pitto, Zane Naphan, Morgan Clark, Lindsey Goodsell, Lucas DeLapp, and co-leader Travis Heffner [exhibited a successful set](#)

[of Angus bulls](#) at the 2023 Red Bluff Bull and Gelding Sale. The event brings producers across the country together to exhibit their genetics in hopes of making the sale. Not only were the students successful in exhibit five at the event, but two ended up placing 2nd and 3rd in the Calving Ease division and all five bulls made it to the sale, ultimately selling for over the average price.



Chico State Well Represented at the California Plant and Soil Conference

The conference centered on the theme of sustainable farming practices and featured growers and invited speakers who shared their insights and experiences with the attendees. Twelve undergraduate students and three plant and soil science graduate students had the opportunity to present research during the poster competition session at the 2023 California Plant and Soil Science Conference in Fresno, five of them receiving six awards. The student awardees are as follows: Aubrey Teckam (pictured above), 1st place “Poster Undergraduate Presentation

THE YOUNG PRODUCERS

CHICO STATE SHOWING AT 82ND RED BLUFF BULL & GELDING SALE

By CCA Associate Director of Communications Heather LeGrande

Over the last week in January, attendees filled the stands and grounds of the historic Chico State Fairgrounds in Red Bluff, California, for the 82nd Red Bluff Bull and Gelding Sale. The five-day event featured a traditional, exciting, stock show and bull sale. Single days of activities include an observation of a variety of programs from the local stock show, something for everyone. For many, an observation of a variety of programs from the local stock show is an opportunity to market and sell the bulls raised at the university.

For the last three years, Travis Heffner, of the Chico State Beef Unit, manager of the University Farm, has overseen the students and bulls that are exhibited at the sale. This year, a group of students is the largest to date and together they have sold a total of 15 bulls and geldings every year for the last three years. This year, the Chico State Beef Unit exhibited 15 bulls and geldings at the sale. The opportunity to exhibit at the sale is a great opportunity for students to gain experience in the industry and to see the results of their work.

The year for Chico State has been a busy one. The Chico State Beef Unit has been busy with the preparation and promotion of the annual Red Bluff Bull and Gelding Sale. The students and faculty have worked hard to ensure that the sale is a success. The Chico State Beef Unit has been successful in exhibiting 15 bulls and geldings at the sale. The students and faculty have worked hard to ensure that the sale is a success.

The Chico State Beef Unit has been successful in exhibiting 15 bulls and geldings at the sale. The students and faculty have worked hard to ensure that the sale is a success. The Chico State Beef Unit has been successful in exhibiting 15 bulls and geldings at the sale. The students and faculty have worked hard to ensure that the sale is a success.

The Chico State Beef Unit has been successful in exhibiting 15 bulls and geldings at the sale. The students and faculty have worked hard to ensure that the sale is a success. The Chico State Beef Unit has been successful in exhibiting 15 bulls and geldings at the sale. The students and faculty have worked hard to ensure that the sale is a success.



Chico State Beef Unit students and faculty members at the Red Bluff Bull and Gelding Sale.



Calving ease in the Red Bluff Bull and Gelding Sale.

Award” in the plant science category; Maia Crummett, 2nd place “Poster Presentation Award” in the soil science category as well as the recipient of the California Plant and Soil Conference Scholarship; Kimberly Holguin, 3rd place “Poster Presentation Award” in the soil science category; and Erik Spitzer, 1st place “Poster Presentation Award” in the graduate student category. Cindy Daley was among the invited speakers and presented during the organic and regenerative session.

Agriculture Majors Exposed to Wine Industry in a Different Light



Twelve College of Agriculture students alongside Jake Brimlow (pictured) and Rich Rosecrance embarked on a four-day field trip throughout California to learn about the wine industry from different perspectives.

Students received the opportunity to visit Esfuerzo Winery, Esfuerzo Vineyard Management, and E & J Gallo Modesto over four days of travel. The trip provided insight from industry members not only about the production of grapes, but the processes of growing and harvesting of grapes to transportation and bottling, ending with knowledge on marketing and distributing the product. The trip was funded with student learning fees. Brimlow hopes to pursue similar field trips with students as part of developing a certificate curriculum.

Students Successfully Compete at Judging Competitions Across the Nation

The Chico State Livestock and Meat Judging teams have successfully represented the University throughout the nation, excelling at different competitions. Under the leadership of Clay Carlson, animal science faculty member, the team was named “Overall High Team Senior College” at the Arizona National Livestock Show in Phoenix, as well as the “Reserve Champion Senior College” at the Nebraska Cattlemen’s Classic Judging Contest

in Kearney, Nebraska, among others. At the National Western Stock Show in Denver, Colorado, the Meats Judging team placed eighth in the Senior College competition this year. Our student competition teams not only represent Chico State's College of Agriculture, but represent the next set of leaders the industry will have before going into their careers without coming from a land grant institution. The discipline these students have to maintain their course work and schedules while having to travel for long periods of time demonstrates their commitment to their studies as well as the industry and representing Chico State.



“AGtivate” Launches Students to Success Early in Semester

On the Friday before the official start to the semester, first-time College of Agriculture students participated in the [inaugural “AGtivate”](#) providing them with a full day of bonding, education, and an

introduction to Chico State. Student Success Coordinator Denise Crosswhite developed the event in the spring of 2022, and after funding was secured from Golden State Farm Credit and The Zenith, the orientation program came to life. With the help of six student leads, each section of the event was able to be planned perfectly, allowing for the new students to feel a place of comfort and belonging within the College of Agriculture. After various activities and announcements, new students got to hear panel discussions by major and heard from faculty members. The event ended with a message from the Student Success and Retention Office on how best to succeed in the college and where to go to get their questions answered. “AGtivate” was a highly beneficial event for the College of Agriculture and we look forward to continuing the tradition for many years to come.



College of Behavioral and Social Sciences



Human Identification Lab (HIL)



2023–24 California State Budget Includes Funding for New Human Identification Laboratory at Chico State

A long-awaited vision for a [new Human Identification Laboratory \(HIL\) at California State University, Chico](#) is finally being realized, with a \$3 million allocation in the California 2023–24 state budget. [As the only full-time forensic anthropology laboratory](#) in the state, the HIL led the forensic investigation during [the Camp Fire](#) and has conducted over 700 investigations in 47 California counties in the last four years to serve dozens of local, state, and federal law enforcement partners, including the California Office of Emergency Services, the US Department of Homeland Security, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation. The 50-year-old laboratory is in critical need of a new facility in order to meet expanding demand for its services to recover missing persons, analyze and identify their bodies, present vital information to resolve criminal cases, and provide closure to families. [Alumni recently spoke out about how much the HIL has affected their careers.](#)

Chico State’s Human Identification Lab (HIL) Assisting Nevada County Sheriff’s Office Deputies with Investigating Human Remains
Nevada County Sheriff’s Office deputies [investigated human remains](#) found in March near Interstate 80 east of Truckee with the help of Chico State’s HIL.

Modesto Man Charged with Murder After Remains of Missing Woman Found

A Modesto man was charged with murder following the discovery of remains on his property that investigators feel belong to a missing Stockton woman per the Stanislaus County Sheriff’s Office. [A team from Chico State HIL helped identify the remains.](#)

‘Beauty in the Chaos’: Fulbright Scholar’s Focus on Gemstone Trade in Sri Lanka

Brian Brazeal (anthropology) was awarded a Fulbright Scholar Award last year, [allowing him to travel to Sri Lanka](#) to study and document the country’s unique place in the global gemstone industry for a future



documentary for the University’s Advanced Laboratory for Visual Anthropology (ALVA). Undergraduate student Stacey Jones (anthropology, pictured) joined Brazeal, who would later receive the [Glenn Kendall Public Service](#)

[Award](#) for her work on this and other ALVA projects.

Valene L. Smith Museum of Anthropology



Two Chico State Professors' New Soil Exhibit

When it comes to one of the most important substances in our human existence, two Chico State professors and their students are using a new exhibition to provide visitors with “the dirt” on this subject. [“Deeply Rooted: How Soil Connects Us”](#) opened this spring in the Valene L. Smith Museum of Anthropology. It’s a student-curated exhibition that presents the wide range of soil types and the vital role it plays in global ecosystems and cultures.

New Exhibit at Valene Smith Museum Examines Relationship Between Movies, Resulting Tourism

How could a 9,000-year-old Italian town made up of cave dwellings become a symbol of poverty and poor sanitation, then rise to UNESCO World Heritage Site status before the end of the 20th Century? Modern film, and the tourism that resulted from it, made its rebound possible. That’s the basis of a new exhibit [“On Location: Film Tourism Around the World,”](#) at Chico State’s Valene Smith Museum of Anthropology. The exhibit was made possible by contributions from Professor Chiara Ferrari (media arts, design and technology).

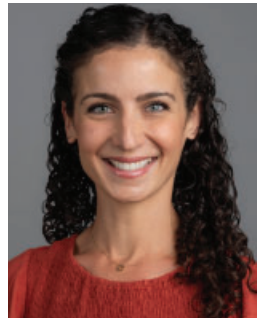
Chico State’s Valene L. Smith Museum of Anthropology partnered with WellCat Safe Place for Sexual Assault Awareness Month

The exhibit at the Museum supports [the history of the Denim Day campaign](#), and students can write and paint an empowering vision for the future on some of the denim artwork laid out in the exhibit.

Dizard Details Jordan Experience

Professor Jesse Dizard (anthropology) went to Jordan as part of his receiving the Fulbright Scholar Award. He describes his enlightening experience with [Chico State Today](#).

Child Development Professor Pens Wildfire Playbook to Guide Community Preparedness



Lindsey Nenadal (child development), with help from a team at the Boys and Girls Club of the North Valley and a group of Chico State undergraduate students, [spent two years interviewing and learning from community members](#)

who worked with children and families during the Camp Fire and used what she learned to [create a playbook for organizations facing a similar crisis](#). Your Playbook on How to Support Children, Youth, & Families During & After a Wildfire is available at [Nenadal’s website](#).



Chico State Professor Helps Reshape How CSUs Teach About Climate Change

Professor Mark Stemen (geography and planning) [wants climate change integrated across every aspect of the curriculum](#). Today, with his influence, that dream is one step closer. After leading the first multi-campus faculty-learning community in the history of the California State University system, [Stemen is helping usher in a new way of teaching about the subject](#), and experts are taking notice.

Stemen facilitated the [inaugural Faculty Learning Community in Teaching Climate Change and Resilience](#). 62 faculty from six CSU campuses representing over 30 disciplines redesigned 75 classes to offer greater engagement in climate change. This received recognition in the form of a [Campus Sustainability Achievement Award](#) from the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education.



Chico State’s Don Hankins on Fighting Fires with Fire

Fire scientist Don Hankins (geography and planning) spoke of a “fuel crisis” at the [Aspen Ideas Festival](#)—so many years of fire prevention and mitigation efforts have led to a buildup of combustible fuels, allowing fires to burn hotter and grow faster. Before human intervention, fires helped to keep landscapes from becoming overgrown with vegetation. Now, without that natural process, high-intensity fires not only prolong the time the fire burns but how long it takes to get back to normal.

He was recently in the news as Cal Fire announced a new state fund to [protect and support prescribed burning](#), a practice long advocated for by Hankins.

Office Hours with Multicultural and Gender Studies Assistant Professor Lateasha Meyers



[Lateasha Meyers](#) (multicultural and gender studies) is in her second year teaching at Chico State. Her research centers on education and Black girlhood and specifically focuses on how Black girls construct their educational worlds. She challenges traditional ways of research by incorporating visual

art-based methods, as she did with a group of high school girls in Hamilton, Ohio, in spring 2019.

Revamped “Latinx and Immigration” Class Dives Deeper into Lived Experiences

When Gabby Medina Falzone (multicultural and gender studies) stepped up to teach “[Latinx and Immigration](#)” for the fall 2022 semester, she was ready to challenge her students and herself. It was difficult, she admits, taking on a class that had been taught by a fellow faculty member, Paul Lopez, for nearly 20 years. With the foundation he had set, the course was highly relevant and impactful—but she envisioned doing even more with it.



Office Hours with Criminal Justice Faculty and Rural Issues Researcher Amy Magnus

[Amy Magnus](#) (political science and criminal justice) spent most of her life in metropolitan areas. Yet, she’s always had a passion for rural communities. Today, her interest in areas with smaller populations is the focus of her academic research, which also feeds her activist passion to solve social injustices and inspire the next generation.

When she was looking at job opportunities, Chico State’s student demographic and strategic priorities fueled the sense of place and belonging that has been important throughout her entire life.

Chico State Lecturer Analyzes Reasons for Russian Invasion of Ukraine

Chico State faculty and lecturer John Crosby (political science and criminal justice) has been a diligent student of other countries’ cultures and histories, and when combined with his intelligence background, it qualifies

him to [analyze what's happening in the Russia-Ukraine conflict](#).

Think Act Be Podcast: How to Stop Taking Things Personally

Joel Minden (psychology) [appeared on the Think Act Be podcast](#) to discuss how to take things less personally, whether we're assuming people are upset with us when they're not or we're blaming ourselves when things don't work out.



Office Hours: School of Social Work Professor Sue Steiner

In 1986, Sue Steiner (School of Social Work) began her career as a social worker. Encouraged by a friend to enter academia, Steiner pursued her PhD at the University of Washington and fell in love with teaching.

[Steiner joined Chico State in 2007](#), bringing with her a heart for social justice and a drive to elevate communities. Most recently, she has brought change to the way she teaches, something called "[ungrading](#)"—instead of giving grades, she provides more assignment feedback than ever. This has led to a positive shift in lower stress for her students and how (and how much) they learn.

Social Work Alumna Finds Way to Give Back

Bekah Qualls (MA, Social Work, '19) wants to give back to both the campus that supported her and to future students who might be facing the same challenges she did. This year she reached out to her mentor, Krysi Riggs, director of annual giving at Chico State, and created the [Qualls Footnotes Endowed Scholarship](#). The purpose of the scholarship is to support upper-division students entering the social work program at Chico State.

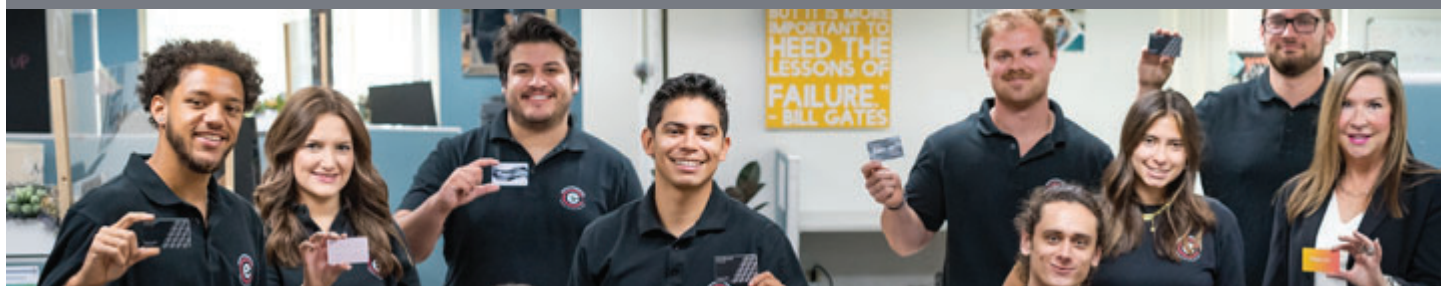


Chico State Breaks Ground on First Net-Zero Building with Future Home for College of Behavioral and Social Sciences

Long known for its commitment to and leadership in sustainability, [Chico State broke ground this spring on the new building for the College of Behavioral and Social Sciences](#)—the first net-zero building on campus and the third in the entire CSU system. The new 94,000-square-foot building will be home to nine academic departments, 22 classrooms, five laboratories for conducting research, and one large, tiered lecture hall, as well as faculty offices, conference space, and breakout rooms to foster collaboration. It will also be home to the Community Legal Information Clinic and the Gender and Sexuality Equity Coalition, both of which have been part of campus for more than 50 years. "I'm super excited about it," [said Dean Eddie Vela](#). "BSS is proud to represent some of the University's most premiere programs, all of which expand our understanding of the behavioral, social, cultural, and environmental aspects of the human condition. Here, our students will have an unparalleled experience, learning from our expert faculty and working to solve the unprecedented challenges of the 21st century."



College of Business



College of Business Earns AACSB Reaccreditation

Chico State's College of Business was [reaccredited by the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business \(AACSB\)](#) International, the highest standard of achievement for business schools. Less than 6 percent of the world's schools offering business degree programs hold AACSB business accreditation, ensuring the College of Business remains a competitive leader in the business world. The college is required to meet rigorous requirements including faculty qualifications and expectations, budget and facilities, student assessment and outcomes, and societal contributions.

Princeton Review Recognizes Chico State's College of Business

Chico State's College of Business is [recognized under the Princeton Review](#) lists including, ['The Princeton Review's 2023 Best Business Schools'](#) and ['Top Online MBA Programs for 2023.'](#) It has never left the list in its past 18 editions.

"We strongly recommend (Chico State) as an outstanding choice for anyone considering earning an on-campus or online MBA" degrees, said Rob Franek, the *Princeton Review's* editor-in-chief who oversees the rankings. "The business school's academic program is excellent and its experiential components are robust."

The website Best Accredited Colleges ranks Chico State as No. 41 in the ["Best Bachelor's Degree in Business" listing](#).



Chico State Receives Transformational Gift to Support New College of Business Building

Jon E. Krabbenschmidt (Business Administration, '76) credits a significant portion of his business success to his experience at Chico State and wants future students to have the same opportunity. But to do so, he says, the University needs to replace Glenn Hall, the existing building for the College of Business that opened in 1958, with a state-of-the-art building. This spring, [Krabbenschmidt donated \\$5 million](#) as a first commitment toward an ultimate \$10 million gift dedicated to the construction of the new building.

Chico State Recognized as a Top Business School with an MBA Program

Chico State has once again been recognized as one of the top business schools with an MBA program—with a Tier One ranking in [CEO Magazine's 2023 Global MBA rankings](#). The University's online MBA program also ranked No. 46 globally, jumping up from No. 65 last year. This marks the fifth year that Chico State's MBA program has been ranked by CEO Magazine.

Business Double Major Ready for Life's Next Big Challenge

When [Hirra Khan](#) moved to Gridley from Pakistan in 2012, she found herself surrounded by the unknown: at a new school in a foreign country, learning to speak English from scratch, and the only 12-year-old for miles who wore a hijab. This May she graduated with one degree in business administration with an option in finance and another in business information systems with an option in management information systems.

Military Vet Pursues Online MBA

During his long career investigating money laundering and fraud in the financial services industry, [Urriolagoitia \(Rio\) Miner](#) has looked into suspicious bank transactions of professional athletes, porn site operators, and famous socialites. The desire to fill in "gaps" in his business acumen and his determination to spend leftover GI Bill money led him to enroll in Chico State's online MBA program. Though working at a startup full-time while simultaneously working toward an MBA is a hefty time commitment, Miner has enjoyed the experience and is already putting what he learned into practice.



Students Establish Business Based on New "Business Card" Concept

This semester we launched what may be one of the most [innovative entrepreneurship](#)

[projects](#) in the history of the College of Business. Under the guidance of Eva Shepherd, 9 students were presented with \$5,000 in startup funds (thanks to a generous donation from alum Scott Bedford) and tasked with launching a real business. The result is [Fusion NFC](#), a company that makes high-tech customizable business smart cards. Unlike a traditional business card, an NFC business card allows you to transfer your contact details to any smartphone in an instant.



Student Managed Investment Fund Takes on a Bull Market

The [Student Managed Investment Fund \(SMIF\)](#) is pushing the limits of what it means to learn finance in a collegiate environment. The group, comprised of 10 students split into four teams, votes on which stocks, bonds, and investment funds to buy and sell in the shared portfolio that began with an initial \$25,000 investment from donors. Their goal is to eventually grow the portfolio to a million dollars.

The Algorithmic Trading Team, led by business information systems major Nhung (Emma) Pham, coded custom software that automates investment decisions, like automatically buying a particular stock when it hits a certain price, selling once it hits a higher price, and monitoring a particular stock's performance to predict coming changes in trend, such as reversals or breakouts. All this innovation takes place in the College of Business' new [FinTech Lab](#), an investment research workroom designed to provide students with cutting-edge software and real-time trading observations.

Chico State Students Help the Community Prepare and File Their Taxes.

Accounting Program Director Saurav Dutta [talks with KRCR TV](#) about the impact of the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program. The number of returns completed was up 300% from last year.

Students Pitch Ideas at Entrepreneur Event

Four Chico State business students [pitched their ideas](#) at [Chicostart's](#) GrowTech event in October. The students, all seniors majoring in business, worked on business plans for five months and presented their ideas in a one-minute elevator pitch to investors.

Chico State's SAP UCC Ensures Access for Thousands of Students Worldwide

The SAP University Competence Center (UCC) at California State University, Chico provides hosting services and technical support to nearly 270 institutions throughout the Americas and India, all of which are participating in the SAP University Alliance. The [Chico UCC](#) has been incredibly successful for students involved in the SAP program at the College of Business. Students graduating with SAP coursework have 100% job placement. Recruiters from Fortune 500 companies come from all over the US, skipping over the likes of UC Berkeley to hire at salaries that often climb over \$100,000 within the first five years after graduation.

Student Retention and Diversity Panel Provides Valuable Insight

On November 30, Associate Dean Suzanne Zivnuska and International Student and Scholar Services Coordinator Tasha Alexander facilitated a panel discussion with five students from the College of Business. The panelists, all first-generation students, were asked a series of questions developed by a research team in educational psychology at Stanford. They shared what coming to Chico State has meant to them, offered valuable insight about their successes, and candidly shared about the different challenges and hardships students face today. The discussion was attended by College of Business faculty and staff.

Chico City Council Changes Airport Name in Rebranding Effort Supported by Chico State Marketing Students

In November 2022, the Chico City Council voted to [rename the Chico Municipal Airport](#) to the Chico Regional Airport to create a more region-centric identity and assist in the return of commercial air service to the area. This rebranding effort was [developed with the help of Chico State students](#) enrolled in "Brand Strategy" (MKTG 498), an experiential course specifically designed to target branding issues among local businesses.



Seufferlein Sales Program (SSP) Remains One of the Best in the Nation

Chico State's [professional sales program](#) ended the academic year with 528 students enrolled (up from 400 last year). This includes 105 freshmen and 89 freshmen, with student involvement coming from 64 different majors across campus. Thanks to program partners, the SSP provided 347 free textbooks covering five different sales classes.

The program hosted four sales competitions this year, awarding a total of \$50,000 in prize money. Chico State sales students continue to dominate nationwide competitions, and for the first time ever a team was sent to compete internationally at the European Sales Competition in Amsterdam.



Chico State's American Marketing Association (AMA) Ranks as a Top Chapter

In April, twelve students from Chico State's AMA traveled to New Orleans where they joined more than 1,300 students from 114+ different AMA chapters worldwide at the 2023 AMA International Collegiate Conference. Chico AMA ranked in the top 20 out of more than 300 chapters. The club was assessed in areas including professional development, membership, social impact, communication, fundraising, budgeting, and overall chapter activities.



Faculty Development at Lundberg Family Farms

On October 28, six College of Business faculty took a four-hour tour of Lundberg Family Farms, the largest organic rice grower in America. The trip was organized by Angela Casler and Bob Sprague as a Hanft Family faculty development day. Members of the Lundberg family provided a history of the business, now led by the fourth generation. In addition to touring fields and the seeding science lab, faculty visited the warehouse where they learned about ERP systems and RFID chips for managing inventory alongside inbound and outbound shipping and receiving.

Crypto Crisis: What Happens Next and What It Means for Average Investors

Arash Negahban, Information Systems, Finance, and Accounting Department chair, [spoke with Action News Now](#) about how cryptocurrency investors can protect themselves in the wake of the collapse of FTX.

Associate Dean Discusses How the Public May be Handling Inflation

As inflations hit a 40-year record high in July, Associate Dean Suzanne Zivnuska [talked with KRCR TV](#) about how the public may be handling inflation.

Chico State Director on The Rising Price of Gasoline and Student Loan Forgiveness

[KRCR interviewed Jaycob Arbogast](#) from the College of Business in October about why the price of gasoline is rising in some places and not rising in others. [KRCR interviewed Arbogast](#) again in November about the future of college student federal debt.

The Local Impact of the Silicon Valley Bank Fallout

Local banks appeared to be unaffected, despite national fallout from banking collapses in March. Accounting Program Director Saurav Dutta, who worked in the US Securities and Exchange Commission during the global financial crisis in 2008, shared his thoughts with both the [Chico Enterprise-Record](#) and [KRCR TV](#).

Matthew Stone, Associate Professor in Marketing, Wrote the Definition of Culinary Tourism

The published definition is found in the *Encyclopedia of Tourism Management and Marketing*, the definitive reference work in the field. [Stone has also authored](#) two recent chapters on culinary tourism.

Chico State Develops Relationship with Lithuanian University

In October, [Chico State hosted visitors from Kaunas University of Applied Sciences \(KUAS\)](#) in Kaunas, Lithuania. The visit was arranged by Matthew Stone, associate professor of marketing, and was supported by the EU Erasmus+ mobility program. Innovations in business education were a focus of the visit, which included meetings with faculty and staff from across the campus. Chico State signed a Memorandum of Understanding with KUAS on November 30, opening up more opportunities for international collaboration, including online international learning (COIL), research partnerships, and student and faculty mobility.

Everspring and California State University, Chico Expand Online MBA to Include Health Services Administration Specialization

Everspring, a leading provider of education technology and services, announced an expansion of its partnership with Chico State to include a [new online Health Services Administration MBA option](#). Chico State is now the only school in the 23-university CSU system to offer this specialization online or in-person.

College of Communication and Education



CME Office of Outreach, Research, and Grants Supports Student Success

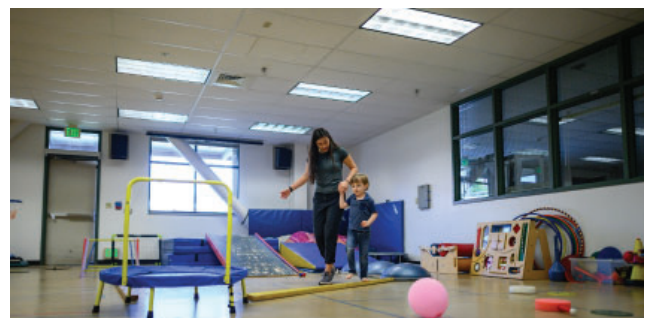
This year, the College of Communication and Education (CME) hired Kristin Lower, faculty member in the School of Education and former grant manager for the Chico Unified School District, to serve as the director of CME's Office of Outreach, Research, and Grants (ORG). Lower has helped to amplify CME's grant-seeking and grant-getting efforts. She and her staff currently administer nearly \$36,000,000 in external grants, with over \$4,200,000 in expenditures this year.



Those grants directly support student success with a particular focus on historically underserved students and communities. For example, the GREAT Teacher Pipeline is a \$13.4 million project designed to eliminate barriers into the profession among our underserved, regional students at all stages of their education and in all subject areas, so they can become teachers in our regional schools. The project will provide \$12 million in funding to Chico State's School of Education that will be distributed to credential candidates and high school, undergraduate, and education master's students. In spring of 2023, the first Pipeline Grant candidates received stipends to be

applied to tuition costs, school supplies, travel costs, or any other expenses that might create barriers for students.

Similarly, [The Community and Instruction for Expanding English Learners' Opportunities](#) (CIELO) Project (\$2,468,813) improves instructional practice and educational outcomes for English Learners within Dual Language Immersion Programs. Our partnership with the Orland Unified School District will increase the pool of bilingual educators, provide tuition support for bilingual student teachers, develop culturally responsive lessons for dual immersion and English language development settings, increase the target language proficiency of educators, and increase bilingual pre-service educators' family and community engagement knowledge and skills.



CME Supports Our Community Through Clinics and Events

This year, CME continued its long-standing responsive, effective, and transformational excellent community service work through its two clinics and many community-centered events. The Autism Clinic, housed in the Department of Kinesiology's Adaptive Physical

Education program provides services to community members focused on the sensory, motor, communicative, and cognitive skills of individuals with autism. The clinic, staffed by faculty and graduate students, combines multiple disciplines, resources, and support to allow continuous development in a positive environment for Chico State students, individuals with autism, and their families. Currently about 50 children and their families are being served.



The Clinic for Communication Disorders (CCD), housed in the Communication Sciences and Disorders Program (CMSD), offers surrounding county residents diagnostic and intervention services at no cost. The CCD is a vital component of the CMSD program, operating as a training clinic for students in the CMSD graduate program under the supervision of master clinicians in the field of speech-language pathology. The clinic is located on campus and, using modern technology, provides both diagnostic and rehabilitative services for individuals with

communication disorders.



Additionally, CME programs offer several important community events throughout the

year including Adapted Physical Education Sports Day, the Speech and Hearing Science Fair, and Northern California Neurodiversity and Disability Symposium (formerly the Northern California Autism Symposium). Our Communication Studies Speech and Debate team traveled to Tokyo, Japan to compete.



Our Recreation, Hospitality, and Parks Management program provided students with opportunities to plan a mock wedding under the “Events Management” option and volunteer at

national parks under the “Parks and Recreation Management” option.



Other ongoing hands-on opportunities available to students included the Journalism and Public Relations program student-managed PR firm, Tehama Group Communications. The group’s Skylar Trostinsky (pictured) had a spotlight featured on [Chico State Today](#).



Chico State’s student radio, KCSC, which is now housed under CME, continues to provide students with experience in the production, management, and promotion of a fully operational radio station.

In spring 2023, the Education Specialist and Bilingual Credential Pathway programs facilitated an Emergent Bilingual Special Education Workshop attended by future and current educators. This was the first time the event has been held since 2020 and was the first time 18 international teachers in the Chico State Fulbright Teaching Excellence and Achievement program joined. The Emergent Bilingual Special Education Workshop aimed to help educators navigate teaching emergent bilingual students, providing further support to future bilingual educators.



Chico State's School of Education (SOE) saw an opportunity to offer educators in the region more support

as they adjusted to new teaching methods post-pandemic. That was when the concept of a [Mobile Classroom](#) came to light. The idea for a retrofitted recreational vehicle that could be transformed into a functional classroom on-the-go was set in motion by the School of Education and led by Tal Slemrod, associate professor and coordinator for the SOE's educational technology and distance learning program. Beyond continuing trips to nurture the relationships with partner schools and districts, the School of Education has additional plans to put the Mobile Classroom to use, from outdoor lessons to personal development sessions, to Torres Shelter fundraising events, and creating a safe space for children on the spectrum at autism events.

CME Recognition, Awards, and Major Milestones

In the fall, our School of Education celebrated the successful achievement of full accreditation, with no stipulations, from the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing (CTC). The unanimous recommendation for full accreditation from 10 members of the CTC is a rare accomplishment and a testament to the hard work and

dedication exhibited by SOE faculty and leadership.

The Journalism and Public Relations program also received full accreditation. Additionally, their program earned numerous awards throughout the year. The program's student news organization, *The Orion*, was honored by the Associated Collegiate Press and recognized as one of the top [100 student publications in the nation](#) in the fall.

Journalism and Public Relations Department chair [Janell Bauer](#) received personal recognition in the fall as well. The book she co-edited and produced, *Badass Feminist Politics: Exploring Radical Edges of Feminist Theory, Communication, and Activism*, was awarded the 2022 Distinguished Edited Book of the Year Award by the National Communication Association's Applied Communication Division.



Professor of media arts, design, and technology, Chiara Ferrari, received Chico State's prestigious Lantis Award to study the hit movies filmed on location in Matera—a city in southern Italy—and the impacts of tourism. The professor's research aided in the opening of a new exhibit at the Valene L. Smith Museum of Anthropology.

Kinesiology grad student and former marine, Isiah Armond Jamal Henderson, was [awarded the Training in Interdisciplinary Education and Research TIER](#)



[Scholarship](#), a federally-funded grant program that trains preservice professionals to work with children with significant disabilities. He also received one of the most prestigious awards in the CSU system, the CSU's Trustees Award for Outstanding Achievement.

The Chico State Delegation Took Home the Coveted Outstanding Delegation Award from the Model United Nations Conference

Additionally, three committees were [awarded the Outstanding Position Paper Award](#) and student delegates in two other committees were awarded “Best Delegates” for their respective committee. The student officer corps were led by Head Delegate Tommy Hubbard.



Students Travel, Grow, and Build Friendships Through Speech and Debate Team

At Chico State, [the speech and debate team doubles as a club and a course](#)—it is an instructional related activity (IRA) offered through the communications studies program. The team, which competes in tournaments against other two- and four-year schools, offers competition in cross-examination, team policy debate, and individual events. It also offers countless benefits outside of tournaments for its members.

Paradise U Helps Elementary Students Rediscover the Joy of Movement

PARADISE U, a physical education program created by [kinesiology professor Catherine Himberg](#) helps students discover the benefits and joy of movement.

“Physical education classes, as well as active movement, are so important to everyone,” she said. “Movement creates happy molecules, which make you feel better, more courageous, and more resilient. It also literally expands the number of brain cells in your head, so students become better learners when they have an active lifestyle.”



College of Engineering, Computer Science, and Construction Management



Multimillion-Dollar Grants Provide Undergraduate Research Opportunities to Underserved Students in STEM

Since 2016, the Chico STEM Connections Collaborative has provided academic and other support services to historically underserved students in science, technology, engineering, mathematics, and agriculture. CSC² has supported nearly 300 students in undergraduate research projects across the three colleges, creating a fundamental opportunity that today is the linchpin of the program. In 2021, the University received two additional HSI grants totaling more than \$7.5 million to [continue the program for another five years](#). These funds are investments in Chico State students, their research, and their futures. “Without this program, I would not be graduating. This program is the reason I’m still here,” said Marifer Martinez, a senior majoring in animal science. “The advisors, the tutors, and the faculty help—they are like family.”

Student Researchers Share Insight into Summer Projects

Student-researchers in the STEM Connections/CSC² programs [share their undergraduate research projects](#) and the program’s incredible impact on them and the world.



Engineering Success: Students Solve Real-World Problems

College of Engineering, Computer Science, and Construction Management (ECC) students showcased their skills during the [ECC Senior Design Capstone Project Expo](#), the culmination of a year of hard work and their time at Chico State—more than 150 projects were on display. Project sponsors included well-known brands like CamelBak, Amazon Web Services, Lawrence Livermore Labs, Keysight Technologies, and more.

Graduating Seniors in the College Recognized as Outstanding Student Leaders

- [Yanetli Navarro-Hernandez](#) (College of ECC) was chosen to be the [college’s spring 2023 Commencement Reflections Speaker](#)
- Gunnar Kroencke (computer animation and game development)
- Haley Chelonis (civil engineering)
- [Mateus Avalos](#) (construction management)
- Duncan Hendrickson (computer science)
- Yolanda Reyes (electrical and computer engineering)
- Aidan Murphree (mechanical and mechatronic engineering and advanced manufacturing)

Chico State's ASCE Student Chapter Hosted this Year's MidPacific Competition

The American Society of Civil Engineers student chapter had the opportunity to host the 2023 MidPacific Competition—their last time hosting was in 2017. This year, the steel bridge team placed 2nd overall. Teams from regional schools like UC Davis, UC Berkeley, Sacramento State, and even China came out to participate in Steel Bridge, Timber Strong, Concrete Canoe, Geo Wall, and more.

Civil Engineering Faculty Receives \$1M EPA Grant and IRES Funding



Associate Professor Pablo Cornejo (left) was one of two recipients [to be awarded a \\$1 million grant from the Environmental Protection Agency \(EPA\)](#) to focus on sustainable

nutrient removal for small communities that have lagoon wastewater treatment systems. Cornejo will lead a team from Chico State and UC Davis in representation of California's Central Valley to work on this project from January 2023 to December 2025. Cornejo also received funding from the National Science Foundation's International Research Experience for Undergraduates (IRES) program to engage Chico State students in research in Costa Rica for the next three summers. Starting in the summer of 2024, Chico State students will travel to Costa Rica to investigate sustainable sanitation and resource recovery systems in the Monteverde region.

Newly Renovated Environmental Engineering Lab

[The Environmental Engineering Laboratory Remodel Project](#), completed in 2023, includes new floor surfaces, wall paint, ceiling tiles and lighting, smart room technology, student work stations, storage, and fume hoods. This new space houses some exciting new equipment as well, including analytical balances, cold storage, centrifugation, incubation, a UV-VIS

spectrophotometer, an ion chromatography system, and a new high-pressure liquid chromatography system.



Special thanks to civil engineering Professor Jackson Webster for his work coordinating this effort—it will benefit our students for years to come.

Civil Engineering Professors Researching Earthquake Engineering

Kurt Haselton and Jared Debock are doing applied research on seismic design, risk assessment, and resiliency, focusing on resilient design methods that not only keep a building safe in an earthquake but also limit damage and maintain functionality so society can recover. The research team will also collaborate with the industry, serving as design reviewers for skyscrapers in San Francisco and Sacramento and developing design standards for new building systems, while producing resilient seismic design software used by the majority of structural earthquake engineering firms in the United States.

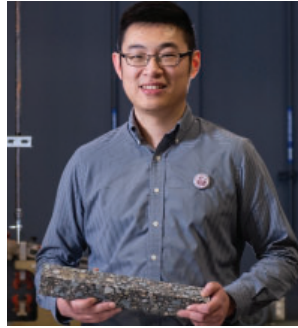
New Civil Engineering Degree Options and Heavy Construction Minor

Civil Engineering (CIVL) has worked hard the past few years to revamp its curriculum to better serve student and industry needs. This effort has resulted in degree option offerings in structural engineering and environmental engineering. CIVL has also worked alongside the Construction Management Department to develop a degree minor in heavy construction that is available exclusively to civil engineering students. This joint collaboration between our programs places Chico State at the leading edge of civil engineering construction education.

APWA Funds 3rd Annual Asphalt Technology Workshop

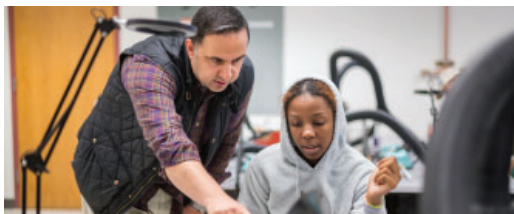
Civil engineering Professor Kun Zhang (right) introduces college students and industry members to the practice of asphalt pavement technology and material testing through an annual summer

workshop sponsored by the American Public Works Association (APWA). This highly interactive and hands-on workshop consists of three days of various lectures and ten labs. Due to high interest in the program, 2023 was the first year Zhang hosted two sessions, and he only expects it to continue growing.



Electrical and Computer Engineering Faculty Highlights

- Zahrasadat Alavi (right) is leading an Engineering and Math Bootcamp for the 5th year in Summer 2023 with several ECC faculty.
- Meghdad Hajimorad taught a short course on Python to a cohort of Chico State and Butte College students in Summer 2022 as part of an NSF grant he received with colleagues from UC Davis.
- David Silveira wrote two funded Student Learning Fee proposals in 2023, which will expand the electronic packaging capabilities in OCNL 339. He is also developing techniques to more accurately monitor temperatures of objects in a fire as part of a research project with faculty from the Anthropology Department.



- Hassan Salehi (left) will be a visiting faculty at Harvard over Summer 2023.



Off-Road Vehicle Club Drives Mechanical Engineering Major Toward His Dream Career

Mechanical engineering major [Treyton Wood](#) was walking on campus during Choose Chico when he spotted something that would not only clinch his decision on what college to attend but shape the next six years of his life. It was the SAE Baja race car, an off-road vehicle designed and built by a student club that can survive the severe punishment of tough terrain and be marketable to recreational vehicle enthusiasts during global competition. Now, as club president for the last three years—and member for the entirety of his undergraduate experience—the graduating senior said nothing has prepared him more for his dream career than the SAE Baja Team.

Mechanical and Mechatronic Engineering and Advanced Manufacturing Club Highlights

Mechanical and Mechatronic Engineering and Advanced Manufacturing (MEMM) had multiple student competition teams make a name for Chico State across national and state competitions:

- The Society of Automotive Engineers (SAE) Baja club competed in two competitions in Oregon and Washington, where they took home 4th place overall for design.
- The Society of Automotive Engineers (SAE) Formula club competed in two competitions in Minnesota and Michigan, taking home 1st place overall for costing analysis.
- The Alternative Energy Club (AEC) competed in the 10th annual Northern California Solar Regatta Competition in Herald. The weather wasn't ideal for a solar-powered boat, but the students were able to successfully pivot to battery power.

- The Rocketry Club is set to compete in the Spaceport America Cup in New Mexico in late June.

MMEM Professor Receives \$170k DoD Grant to Fund an AI Server

Nathan Anderson was awarded a \$170,000 grant from the Department of Defense for an AI supercomputer. It will be used to simulate materials spanning the atomic to continuum levels. Its first application will be on studying atomic level defects in materials relevant for both classical and quantum computing.



Chico State's Cybersecurity Team, usr0, Placed Second in National Cyber League

The Cyber Security Club, officially dubbed "usr0", [ranked #1](#) out of more than 3,000 teams nationwide in the National Cyber League team game. In this biannual event, students prepare and test themselves against practical cybersecurity challenges that they will likely face in the workforce, such as identifying hackers from forensic data, pen testing and auditing vulnerable websites, recovering from ransomware attacks, and additional cyber skill sets.

Computer Science Awarded \$2.5 million grant

The Computer Science Department received a \$2.5+ million 5-year grant that will help bring more quantum science to the CSU system with internships, the Future of Learning in Computer Science (FOLCS), workshops, and summer camps.

CSCI Faculty Facilitates ABET Workshops

For the 2022–23 academic year, Professor Ben Juliano (Computer Science Department) facilitated the following ABET workshops:

- Basics of Program Assessment Workshop (BPAW), May 2022 (virtual): Designed for those who are new to program assessment and would like to gain an understanding of the assessment process or those who would like to evaluate their own program assessment plan against best practices.
- Fundamentals of Program Assessment Workshop (FPAW): For those interested in learning to design assessment processes, develop measurable student outcomes, and apply data collection and data reporting methods.
- Advanced Program Assessment Workshop (APAW): This workshop was designed to help individuals take a critical look at current assessment processes and take them to the next level of quality.

Faculty and Students Work Together on PocketRadar Project

Associate Professor Sam Siewert (Computer Science Department) is working on an externally-funded project called PocketRadar along with two Chico State student interns. The research project has the specific goal of trajectory tracking a batted ball to calculate exit velocity, alpha angle (vertical) and beta angle (horizontal). Specific activities for the PI to perform during the project include code review for interactive (real-time) trajectory tracking of a baseball in flight for mobile devices using PocketRadar supplied computer and current software in development. Work will include review of theory, algorithms used, current code and code development frameworks, and performance of trajectory tracking for use in sports and for coaching, such as baseball and softball.

New Wall Display Installation and Student Success Study Lab

The College of ECC worked in tandem with the University Communications Department team to design a dynamic wall installation and digital display in the North Lobby of the O'Connell Technology Center (OCNL). This digital display will allow the campus community to recognize achievements and showcase upcoming workshops and events in a modern way. The ECC Student Success Center also opened a new Study Lab in OCNL, Room 118, right next to the new display. This lab provides more space for peer-to-peer tutoring, group work, and quiet study time.

Construction Management's ASC Student Chapter Place in Almost All Divisions

The Associate Schools of Construction (ASC) competed in the annual national ASC competition in Reno, Nevada. The students placed in five out of the seven divisions they competed in: *2nd place in Heavy Civil, 3rd place in Commercial, 3rd place in Design Build, 1st place in Mechanical, and 3rd place in Concrete Solutions.*

MCAA Declares Chico State Faculty Educator of the Year



The Mechanical Contractors Association of America (MCAA) recently honored Marie Patterson (Construction Management Department) the Educator of the Year award. This achievement

recognizes MCAA student chapter faculty advisors for serving as advisors, educators, and mentors of students who plan to develop a professional career with the mechanical construction industry. Along with the title, a \$5,000 award honored Marie's involvement and engagement as an academic leader.

Concrete Industry Management Students and Professor Albahtiti Take Lead on Community Service

[Mohammed Albahtiti \(Concrete Industry Management Department\)](#) didn't set out to attend graduate school and teach. It was a bit of serendipity that cemented his



path to higher education and eventually Chico State in 2017. This spring, Albahtiti and students from the concrete industry management program managed the planning and construction of a [new 13,000-square-foot parking lot at the Chico Islamic Center](#). Albahtiti was able to mobilize this team of students and secure industry support for the project in the form of material donations and practical demonstrations from company associates onsite. The resulting effort has been a seamless collaboration between Chico State students and its industry partners. Albahtiti also received the Early Career Community Engagement Award from the Office of Civic Engagement for 2022-23.

ATMAE Accreditation Granted to Two ECC Programs

The concrete industry management and advanced manufacturing programs each received a two-year accreditation by the Association of Technology, Management, and Applied Engineering (ATMAE).

CIM Student Clubs Recognized by Industry

- The concrete industry management program's American Concrete Institute student chapter received the "Excellent University Award." This award identifies the universities that qualify for excellent or outstanding status.
- At the precast show in Columbus, Ohio, hosted by the National Precast Concrete Association (NPCA), the Chico State NPCA student chapter won 1st place in the Student Design Competition.

College of Humanities and Fine Arts



Commencement 2023

HFA plays a key role in helping campus send students off during commencement. The Band, under the direction of Chris Navarrete, provides music; voice students from the Music and Theatre Department sing the national anthem; and Kim Jaxon, faculty in the English Department, serves as one of our campus' two grand marshals for all seven commencement ceremonies. HFA Production Manager, Carmen Gomez, and the School of the Arts (SOTA) student crew provide front- and back- of the house support for Asian and Pacific Islander, Black, Native American, Lavender, and Veterans graduation celebrations.

Harrison Hoang (English Education, '23) served as the Student Reflections Speaker at this year's Colleges of HFA and Natural Science Commencement. Hoang encouraged his fellow graduates to remember, "Whether it's applying for the master's program, daring to start a business, or deciding to take the initiative to surround yourself with people that hold your best interests in mind, the book is yours."

Cody Roberts (English, '21; MA, English, '23) was the student reflection speaker at the Graduate Commencement Ceremony. Roberts applauded his fellow graduates in taking the leap of faith when deciding to pursue a graduate degree and encouraged them to continue in their pursuit of knowledge: "All of you who sit before me took the same deep breath before diving into this next chapter of education, knowing the difficulty that may come. Yet, you did it—with faith that you may further the realms of your studies for the better, for the future of your disciplines, for all that will come from your hard work, and all of those who will learn from you."

Jessie Grimaldo (Musical Theatre, '23), who starred as Dorothy in the spring musical, *The Wizard of Oz*, sang the national anthem at HFA + NSC Commencement in the iconic ruby slippers.

Outreach and Recruitment Efforts

HFA participated in a number of outreach and recruitment efforts, such as the "Big Band Boogie Bash," high school music festivals, and the Butte County Office of Education Superintendent's High School Arts Show, which brought scores of local area students to campus to engage with disciplines in the arts and humanities. The Spanish program in the Languages and Cultures Department hosted two Spanish Immersion Days—one in the fall and one in the spring. Led by Antonio Arreguin-Bermudez, faculty in Spanish, the event brought around 300 high school students of Spanish-speaking backgrounds to our campus. Participating students were

afforded the opportunity to interact with current students and faculty members as well as learn how Chico State, as a Hispanic-Serving Institution (HSI), is committed to their success. HFA partnered with enrollment management and the Office of Admissions to bring local area middle and high schools students to campus to attend a special free screening of *Puffs*, the spring theatrical production, preceded by a tour of HFA facilities and followed by dinner at Sutter Dining Hall.



The college also partnered with the Chico State Alumni Association to host a special reception and meet and greet with the cast of *The Wizard of Oz* following the final performance Sunday, May 7.

Art and Art History Department

The California Conference for the Advancement of Ceramic Arts (CCACA), the largest sculptural ceramics conference in the world, featured the ceramics work of recent graduate Tamara Murphy (Art Studio, '22) on the cover of the 2023 conference proceedings. Murphy was also selected as a 2023 Hicks Scholar for the Summer AIR (artist-in-residence) at the Archie Bray Foundation in Helena, Montana. She will be joining alum Kristy Moreno (Art Studio, '20), who is finishing up a two-year residency.



[Steven Durow](#), one of four new tenure/tenure-track faculty hires in HFA, discussed the connections between his life as an artist and a faculty member. “As I've matured, I've come to realize that being present in the moment and being able to live a creative life is what sustains a long career in the arts,” he said. “Teaching is an important part of my creative life as well—being able to inspire and motivate the next generation of artists is a profound responsibility and the best legacy I could hope for.”



In the weeks after the Camp Fire, interior architecture professor Rouben Mohiuddin [came up with a vision](#) for how his students could leverage their expertise in partnership with professionals and serve the community at the same time. Four years after the Camp Fire devastated the towns of Paradise, Concow, Magalia, and other communities, nearly 1,600 homes have been rebuilt to date—a mere fraction of the 11,000 that were lost, but each one representing recovery for an individual or family. More than a dozen of these homes were rebuilt using two low-cost floor plans created by Chico State interior architecture students.

- [Joel Solis](#) (Art Studio, '22) was featured in “BFA Graduate Drawn to Chico State’s Art Program.”
- Digital media students were featured in “[Digital Media Classes Cultivate Creativity](#).”
- Art and interior architecture alumna Stephanie Poulsen is one of 70 artists [selected for The Stanislaus Art Council’s Salon des Refusés – Emerging Artist Exhibition](#).

Comparative Religion and Humanities

Department

The Comparative Religion and Humanities Student Society invited Kami Fletcher, author of *Till Death Do Us Part: American Ethnic Cemeteries as Borders Uncrossed*, to campus. Fletcher's lecture, entitled "Is Death the Great Equalizer," describes the impact of segregation on burial practices and "the tendency amongst most Americans to separate their dead along communal lines rooted in race, faith, ethnicity, or social standing."

- [Kelly Ann Nelson](#) (Religious Studies, '20) was featured in "Religious Studies Alumna Provides 'Ministry of Presence.'"
- Comparative religion and humanities Professor Sarah Pike was featured in the *National Geographic* article "[Paganism is on the Rise.](#)"

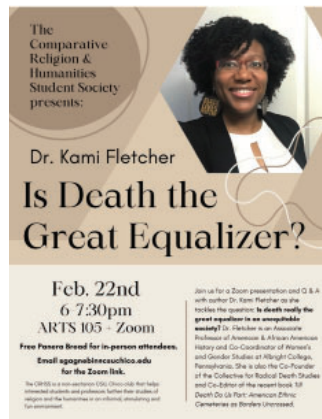
English Department



[Benjamin Vandersluis](#) (English, '17; MA, English, '23) was named "Outstanding Graduate Student" in English. Late last year, Vandersluis stepped out in a daring way by starting his own publishing venture—

Spindle House. The project marries his love for the horror genre, which was fostered and expanded during his time at Chico State, and editing and publishing.

- Katherine Wasche (English, '20; MA, English, '22) started her own online publishing venture, [Plucked Heart Press](#).
- [Hallie Gorman Campbell](#) (English, '04) was appointed by Governor Newsom to the Tuolumne County Superior Court.



Ibe Liebenberg (English, '15; MA, English, '18), Chico firefighter and lecturer in the English Department, was awarded the Tribal College Journal's Student Creative Contest in both the Poetry and Fiction categories in March. His poems "while we were quiet" and "birds at night" were selected for publication in Poetry Northwest. He also placed his poem "Last Night was a Misscarriage" in *The Threepenny Review*. Liebenberg, who is a citizen of the Chickasaw Nation, also completed his MFA in poetry program at the Institute of American Indian Arts this May.



History Department



Victoria Villaseñor (History, '23) was featured in *Chico State Today* in the "Passport to Self Discovery" student profile series: "[Journeys of Self-Discovery to Uruguay and Cuba.](#)"

Eriberto Hernandez-Campos (History, '23) was featured in "[Five Siblings Fulfill Father's Dream.](#)" "Kids aren't usually thinking about college or what they will do with their lives, but I grew up watching my sister start her career—I was 3-years-old saying I wanted to be an accountant."



Shawn Schwaller (History Department) appeared in an episode of the ABC News/Hulu docuseries *Killing County*, executive produced by civil rights activist and football quarterback Colin Kaepernick. Schwaller was invited to be on the show, which focuses on law enforcement-involved killings and law enforcement corruption in Bakersfield, because of his 2018 journal article "Greetings from Bakerfield: Law Enforcement Corruption, White Supremacy, and Latinx Lives in California's Deep Red South."

[Alum Sonia Robles](#), assistant professor of history at the University of Delaware, received her BA in history from Chico State in 2005 before earning her history doctorate at Michigan State University. Her book, *Mexican Waves: Radio Broadcasting Along Mexico's Northern Border, 1930-1950* (University of Arizona Press, 2019) highlights dozens of commercial radio stations established along the northern border by Mexican entrepreneurs whose intention was to be heard by Mexican immigrants in the Southwestern United States.

Languages and Cultures Department

Award-winning German teacher [Melanie Mello](#) (English and German, '07) was named the 2023 HFA Distinguished Alumni.

Music, Theatre, and Dance Department

"Despite spending most of her time out of the spotlight, [Gaby Saxon has] become a star thanks to her role as a student leader and advocate. The story of Saxon's transformative experience at Chico State, and in turn, the influence she's had



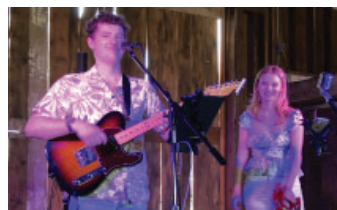
on the department as an empowered member of the campus community, is the kind Chico State's faculty and staff strive to make space for." Read more about Saxon (Theatre, '23) in "[Soon-to-be Theatre Arts Graduate Has Played a Starring Role Offstage](#)"

For years the music department at Chico State has entertained holiday audiences with "The Glorious Sounds of the Season." After a hiatus during the recent pandemic, the glorious sounds returned to the theater to ring in the holidays. For the first time, this much-beloved holiday tradition was under the creative direction of Chris Navarrete, director of bands. "Our goal is to leave the audience feeling happy, joyful and excited," Navarrete said. "We hope to jumpstart everyone's holiday spirit as we transition into the end of the year."

To coincide with Earth Day, the Chico State Music, Theater, and Dance Department presented its choral concert "[Of Wind and Water](#)" at the end of April. Earth Day, which this year falls on April 22, was part of choral director David Scholz's theme for the concert. It focuses on the four elements, earth, wind/air, water, and fire. The choirs, acappella, and chamber singers have been rehearsing from the beginning of the semester. "This is one of the best features of our musical ensembles. We like to think of our groups as a virtual 'melting pot' of the University. We have students that are English majors, agriculture majors, nursing majors, and on and on. We really represent a cross section of the University," Scholz said.



Swashbuckling adventure hit the stage as Chico State's School of the Arts brought Alexandre Dumas' [The Three Musketeers](#) to life this past fall. "This production is filled with modern touches, diverse casting, immersive staging, and surprises," said Music and theater Director John Crosthwaite. "If you've never seen live stage combat and sword choreography, then you've been missing out—this would be the perfect opportunity."



Local singers/songwriters took the stage at the Madison Bear Garden to compete in Chico Unplugged, a singing and songwriting competition presented by Chico State's School of the Arts "Productions" class. The event is in its tenth year and offers a grand prize recording session with Chico State's Audio Engineering Society. A raffle gave proceeds to the Boys and Girls Club.

Philosophy Department

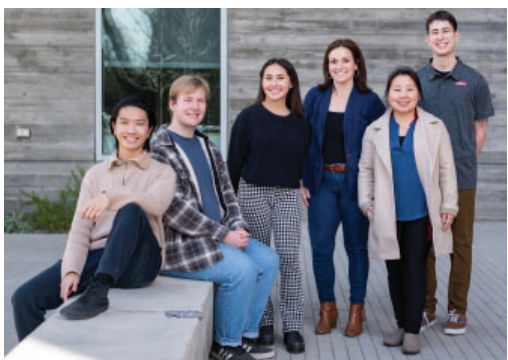
[Renee Rushing](#) (Philosophy, '19) won the *Philosophy* 2022 Essay Prize. The publication is the flagship journal of The Royal Institute of Philosophy.

HFA Support Programs

Music Theory Tutoring

Fall 2022: 36 students scheduled and attended 170 tutoring appointments, totaling 178 tutor hours.

Spring 2023: 23 students scheduled and attended 125 tutoring appointments, totaling 120 tutor hours.



HFA First-Year Success Efforts

2022–2023: 620 new first-time and transfer students received some form of communication from the HFA Success Studio (voicemail, email, in-person advising, or event) during the 2022–2023 academic year. All students were contacted via email at the start of the fall 2022 and spring 2023 semesters and during continuing registration; students who were not enrolled in spring 2023 classes were called by the Success Studio in January 2023; students not enrolled in fall 2023 classes were emailed prior to registration closing on 5/19 and will be called prior to add/drop opening on 8/7. The Success Studio advisors emailed students in early March, sending a list of applicable mid-semester resources, and wishing students a safe and restful spring break. This population of students was again contacted by the Success Studio advisors on 3/21, informing students of continuing registration and offering registration support—schedule planning, contacting major advisors, how to clear advising (and other) holds. HFA Ambassadors called new

incoming fall 2022 and spring 2023 students, encouraging them to attend Preview Day/Weekend and Choose Chico and submit their intent to enroll.

Success Studio & Advising Interns

From August 22–May 21, 2023, advisors in the HFA Success Studio entered 1,332 notes into Chico State 360. These notes document advising appointments, phone calls, and emails sent to students declared in HFA programs. The Success Studio also collected 107 completed senior surveys from students graduating in 2023 and collected student experience surveys during a spring 2023 coffee event. In spring 2023, the Success Studio created the HFA Inter-Club Council and is actively working to increase club visibility, participation, and recruitment.

Orientation

The Success Studio met with the HFA Orientation Team and provided them with a list of potential HFA major/minor combinations, both common and not-so-common. We also shared HFA ensemble, club, and tutoring information; sent links to advising resources; and introduced orientation leaders to the Success Studio spaces.

HFA Connections

This year, HFA launched a new support program for incoming first-year students as part of the college's ongoing student success and retention efforts. Given that much of the work we do in HFA is formed around relationships inside and outside of the classroom, the HFA Connections Program seeks to aid in the formation of these critical relationships and our students' sense of belonging by matching all first-year students with a faculty or staff member in the college. The HFA "guides" met with participating students during the fall and spring semester for coffee or tea (our treat!) in hopes of fostering connections with our students, many of whom shared they were seeking interaction with others. The HFA Connections Program also hosted a De-stress Fest ahead of

finals week during the fall semester and at HFA @ the Barn in the spring semester.

The Humanities Center

The 2022–2023 Humanities Center theme, “Soundscapes,” explored perceptions and interpretations of acoustic environments in their respective cultural, political, and spatial contexts. Ranging from the sounds of nature to a multitude of expressive forms such as music, poetry, dance, and storytelling, every culture has created distinctive soundscapes that shape our daily experiences and mediate our relationships to the world. This year’s events highlighted interdisciplinary humanities research and creative activity on this year’s theme. Some representative events include:

- Digital Humanities Series: David Dvorin, “Artificial Intelligence in Music Making,” and Gina Bloom, “Rough Magic: Performing Shakespeare with Gaming Technology”
- Works-in-Progress Series: Sangmin Lee, “Walk, Map, and Engage Interculturally,” and William Nitzky, “Collaborative Culture in Museums: Intercultural Dialogue and the African Diaspora in Japan”
- Visiting Scholar: Jerome Ellis, “The Clearing, Continued,” and Jessica A. Schwartz, “Radiation Songs, Global Harmony, & Formations of Abolition”
- University Film Series: *La Ciénaga* (*The Swamp*) and *Boat People*



The Janet Turner Print Museum

The Janet Turner Print Museum welcomed a new curator, Rachel Skokowski. AY 2022–2023’s opening exhibition, *First Impressions: Curator’s Choice*, “explore[d] the unexpected

connections and serendipitous surprises that emerge when coming to a collection with fresh eyes.” In the spring, the Turner hosted the exhibition *Documenting Dreams: Juana Estrada Hernandez and Humberto Saenz*, whose works “unveil the lure, promise, and ultimately harsh reality of the American dream.” The Turner also resumed its Kids @ The Turner program, “a free after-school workshop designed to encourage K–12 students to explore creative ideas and themes through contemporary and traditional art. All Kids @ The Turner “classes are taught by college student interns, in collaboration with Sangmin Lee, art education faculty.”

School of the Arts

HFA production manager, Carmen Gomez, and the School of the Arts (SOTA) student crew provided front- and back-of-the-house support for 155 events or performances this year. These events include, but are not limited to, theatrical productions, musical performances, artist talks, gallery exhibitions, lectures, readings, film viewings, and the President’s Convocation. While the number of events is still down somewhat as a result of the pandemic, HFA is fast approaching the pre-pandemic event numbers, which were approximately 200 annually.



College of Natural Sciences



Avian Flu in Butte County

In mid-August, it was confirmed by Butte County Public Health, after notification by the Butte County Agricultural Commission's Office, that avian influenza had been located in a domestic flock of birds in Butte County. Avian flu is a respiratory disease in birds, and it occurs in commercial birds and wild birds. [Troy Cline](#), associate professor at Chico State and expert in bacteriology and virology, was interviewed about how this might affect local residents.

Molecular Biology Student Turns "Beautiful Disasters" into Lifelong Call to Service

[Hikmat Abou Shahla](#) has experienced a lot of heartbreak in his 21 years. Hailing from Beirut, Lebanon, he first came to Butte County in 2017 with the Kennedy-Lugar Youth Exchange and Study (YES) program for a year as a high school student. In Oroville, his otherwise great experience was punctuated by the near-failing of the Oroville Dam's auxiliary spillway, followed by the Camp Fire a year later. [He is graduating from his class](#) with an accumulated GPA of 3.96 and has been accepted into Johns Hopkins University on a full-ride scholarship, which has a 7.5% acceptance rate. Out of every 120 cohorts, only one student is selected for the full ride scholarship.



Biology Student Among First to Research Fish's Unusual Schooling Pattern



[Cole Schmitt](#) has counted a lot of fish swimming in an unusual way. Now a senior double majoring in biological sciences and science education, Schmitt has been working with the National Systemics Laboratory and the

Smithsonian Museum of Natural History for over a year, studying the unique vertical schooling behavior of cutlassfish (*trichiurus lepturus*). In more simple terms, the nocturnal, predatory fish routinely swim straight up toward the surface and not parallel to it.

Ahart Herbarium Rooted in Goal to Study Plants Over Time

Tucked behind an unassuming doorway in Holt Hall lies a botanist's dream. Rows upon rows of cabinets filled to the brim with flowering plants, conifers, and ferns fastidiously organized by genus and dating back years or even decades. "We really do have the history of the North State here," said Professor Colleen Hatfield. ["It's the perfect place to have an herbarium."](#) We are within a couple hours' drive of every major vegetation type you can imagine."

Six Surprising Ways Animals are Adapting to a Human-Dominated World

Scores of species have dug out clever niches in risky territories meant for people. These shifts are inevitable and likely permanent, as there's no going back to when wildlife was still completely wild. "We cannot re-create the world before we interacted with it," says biology Professor [Tag Engstrom](#), a herpetologist at California State University, Chico, and an expert in conservation and invasive organisms. "There's no pristine place anywhere on the planet. There are microplastics at the bottom of the ocean, and Antarctica is melting. The world has changed because we're in it."



Natural Sciences Students put themselves Under the Microscope During Summer Research

When Anna Vo, Sabrina Dilts, and Hunter Sweet reported to work in the organic chemistry lab in the new Science Building this summer, they actively looked into how various therapeutically relevant molecules might inhibit an enzyme associated with Alzheimer's disease.

Working with chemistry professorCarolynn Arpin, [the students monitored the activity of acetylcholinesterase \(AChE\)](#) after it was introduced to the potential inhibitors. In some cases, the contents of their beakers showed an absence of yellow color, promising a clear indication the molecules were inhibiting enzymatic activity—exactly what they were hoping for.

Chico State Paleontologist Study Rich Miocene Fossil Field Southeast of Sacramento

A remarkably rich trove of fossilized animal and plant remains is undergoing evaluation and identification by a crew of Chico State paleontologists. The site, whose specific location the scientists do not want to publicize to avoid having it picked over by collectors and others, sits in the Mokelumne River watershed southeast of Sacramento. [What the Chico State researchers have found is impressive](#), according to Sean Nies, an instructional support technician in the University's Earth and Environmental Science Department.



Chico State Faculty and Students are Studying Ways to Capture Storm Water and Strengthen Drought Resilience

Rain gardens, however, are not the only green infrastructure that can help clean storm runoff before it either seeps into the groundwater or flows to the ocean and waterways. Sandrine Matiasek, Chico State associate professor of earth and environmental sciences, studies a range of these technologies to see [how well they filter the storm water](#), including rain gardens, porous pavement areas, and shallow soil-based channels called bioswales. "The first benefit is the quantity of water that runs off is reduced because water is allowed [to seep] into the ground, rather than storm runoff passing over impermeable surfaces, creating flooding issues downstream," Matiasek says. "Then there's the water quality benefits where plants, soils, and microbial communities will retain and use the contaminants that are in the water for their own metabolism."

New Technology can Give Earthquake Warnings on Cell Phones

Instructional and Research Support Coordinator [Bill Koperwhats](#) was interviewed about smartphone app MyShake, which pulls seismic network data and uses a sensor in cellphones to detect shaking and earthquakes. It doesn't predict earthquakes, but 50 seconds to a minute before an earthquake it can warn the owner of the cellphone what is coming based on the seismic data. MyShake is available for both Androids and iPhones.

Earthquake Knocks Out CHP Chico 911 Dispatch

Earth and environmental sciences Chair [Todd Greene](#) discussed the 5.5 tremor that rattled the North State in May with the *Chico ER*.



Chico State's School of Nursing was recognized in *The Princeton Review's* list of "[Best Online Nursing School Master's Programs for 2023](#)."

Chico State Nursing Students Return From Medical Clinic in Nigeria Dedicated to Memory of Former Student

A memorial clinic was built in Nigeria for Chico State nursing student Kristina Chesterman, who was sadly hit by a drunk driver in September of 2013. Kristina dreamed of traveling to developing nations to use her skills and aid those in need. With the contributions from her parents, [four cohorts of Chico State nursing students have traveled to the clinic](#) to volunteer their services.



The website Best Accredited Colleges listed Chico State as No. 6 in the "[Best Bachelor's Degree Programs in Nutrition](#)" listing.

For Women Ex-Prisoners, Food Insecurity can Trigger Catastrophe

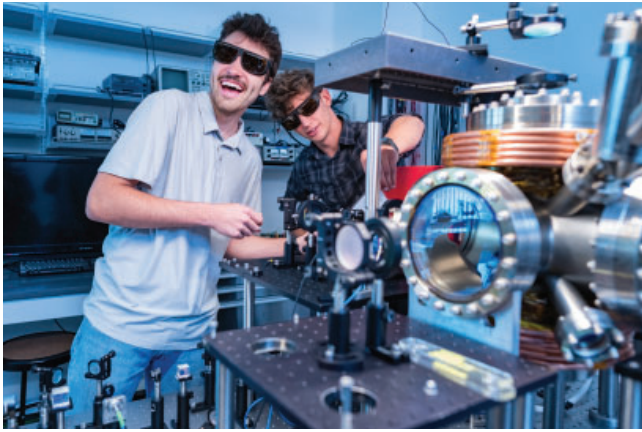
The Center for Healthy Communities' (CHC) [Karina Apodaca-German](#) discussed the work the agency has done to help formerly incarcerated women in California. "We wanted to focus on this specific population because we know they are a very overlooked population and this contributes to inequity even after they are released."

Expanded CalFresh Eligibility Brings Food



Access to More Chico State Students

Eligibility to CalFresh has expanded to allow more students to qualify for aid, said [Amy Gonzales](#), CHC program director at Chico State. "There are lots of students who are working hard to get through school and just don't have enough money to make ends meet," she said. "This is where CalFresh can be so helpful. Between this fall and spring semesters we've helped more than 1,400 Chico State students apply for benefits."



Ultracold Atom Lab Attempting to Cross “Unreachable” Threshold

After an eventful summer and the dedicated work of nine students, physics professors Hyewon and Joe Pechkis are thrilled that the ultra-high vacuum (UHV) chamber in the ultracold atom laboratory [is up and running](#). This spring, the team was able to [witness their first ultracold atoms in the lab](#). What’s next is implementing absorption imaging so that they can make denser and colder samples of atoms, as well as refining the laser technology systems.

Science Experts Hope Discussion Will Boost Students' Communication Skills

How can a person who’s knowledgeable in science, or any subject, effectively communicate with those who are curious about a subject but may not know or understand technical language? Showing students how to be solid communicators is the basis for seminar, [“Communicating Physics.”](#) Professors Hyewon and Joe Pechkis hosted the event, chatting with science educator, journalist, and radio and podcast host Dave Schlom. Pechkis said, “We (as scientists) are pretty good about communication to other experts who have baseline knowledge, but we want to do a better job of communicating to the public. We want to ask ourselves, ‘Why is science important for them?’ Just about anything we do in society, from climate change to general technology, is important to the public.”

Messy Science: Pumpkin Drop Set for Halloween Day

After a two-year absence, [this year’s Pumpkin Drop](#) was led by Chico State’s Society of Physics students and the Physics Department. Hundreds of Chico Unified Elementary School District students will look on in awe, watching pumpkins fall from a scissor lift approximately 50-feet in the air, leading to an explosive and messy display of science that will leave the



young students cheering at the sight of physics in action.

Physics Professor [Kendall Hall](#), who co-hosted this year’s event, said “I was just excited to witness it. I think it’s always exciting to get children onto campus and interested in science. Physics, in

particular, has a bad reputation—it intimidates people. I love events like this that show how it’s fun, not scary. To change the perception, we have to start by reaching people as early as possible.”



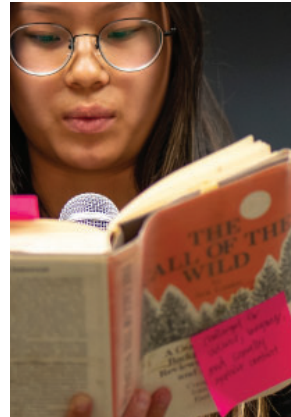
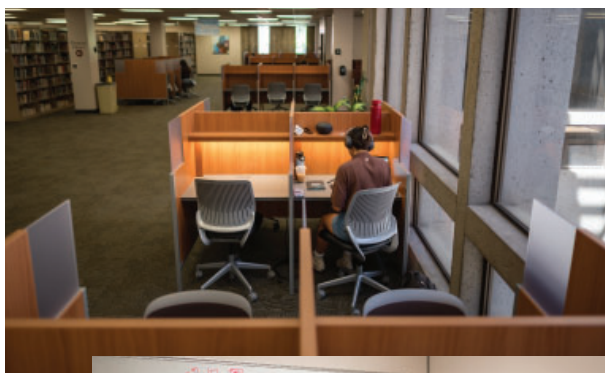
Gateway Science Museum Exhibit Takes Visitors on a Water Drop’s Extreme Journey

The journey of a single drop of water can be daunting. Falling from the sky, it could traverse down mountains and through rivers—all the while avoiding pollutants and human impact—before it joins the ocean or reaches our bodies. [“Water’s Extreme Journey,”](#) the newest exhibit at the Gateway Science Museum, explores this idea with a hands-on, interactive maze that brings to life water-quality issues that affect people and the environment.

Meriam Library



In August 2022, the 4th floor reopened its doors with new lighting and a new HVAC system. The 2nd and 3rd floors flaunted new carpeting and, thanks to a sizable HEERF grant, shiny, modern furniture. To celebrate the new look with our campus community, the library hosted an open house in October.



In the last year, Meriam Library staff and faculty organized a number of programs, workshops, and events for our community including: the Children’s Literature Author Series; a “Freedom to Read” open mic (to acknowledge Banned Book week); a February Koffee &

Kudos (this included a library-wide “scavenger hunt” and emphasized the books we love); a partnership with CCLC to host the Chico-area League of Stars; and “Research on the Run,” a series of librarian-led workshops that focused on APA citations, database searching, and OneSearch.

In an effort to address stress and burnout, we offered guided hula hooping; two drum days; and coffee and snacks during finals week. As a part of our end-of-semester De-Stress Fest we offered low-light study spaces, free study supplies, Bob Ross-guided painting, and lots of snacks.

In response to changes in information-seeking behaviors, the library launched Virtual1st in January 2023. Virtual1st is a virtual reference desk staffed by Meriam Library faculty librarians. This program allows our librarians to meet our students where they spend much of their time—online. Virtual1st still allows for patrons to receive in-person assistance if that’s their preference. In addition to Virtual1st, the library still offers 24/7 chat

assistance via the Meriam Library website. In spring 2023, the library also offered a number of reference “pop-up” hours in the STAR Center and in the SSC.

An SLF grant allowed us to add to our growing technology lending equipment. [Students can now check out a number of items](#) including: power adapters and cables, microphones, projectors, portable projector screens, digital cameras, DVD players (a VCR too, if you can believe it!), laptops, GoPros, Green Screens, headsets, ring lights, a thermal camera, calculators (TI-83, 84 Plus and 84 Plus Silver), tablets, podcast recording equipment, webcams, and more.

In partnership with the School of Education, the library is offering [curriculum kits for checkout](#). These curriculum kits are designed to support pre-service teachers, and each kit includes children’s literature along with supplies and curriculum ideas to be used in our practicum students’ placements.

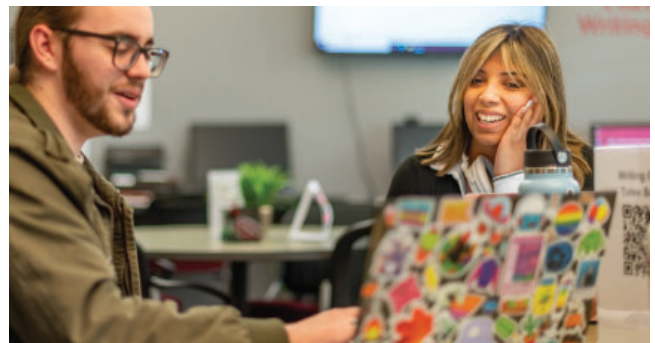
Under the leadership of Dean Wang, Meriam Library staff and faculty are committed to three strategic goals for our users: enable learning modalities in library spaces; create inclusive and equitable services and programs; and aligning our collections with teaching and learning needs. Our mission is to enable success in learning, scholarship, and research via services, collections, and programming in both library physical and virtual spaces.



In our vision, Meriam Library will become the destination that creates lifetime equitable and inclusive academic, cultural, and social experiences for users via transformative services, collections, and programming.



In order to fully realize our mission and vision, we’re planning for the future. Along with the Center for Technology and Equity, the library intends to implement a new program that will include technology lending and our Makerspace—The Innovation Lab. The Innovation Lab will consist of The Makerspace, supported by the Meriam Library, and the Center for Technology Equity and Inclusion, supported by Information Technology. It will enable both departments to maintain our current service-level while transforming our technology-lending program and the makers area.



We’ve formalized a partnership with the Student Learning Center to assess the 1st floor (West Wing) of the library. This architectural assessment will help us to decide what changes we may want to make in order to better serve our patrons.

After Dean Wang’s library budget briefing to the Academic Senate, the Provost approved a third-party review of the budget starting fall 23. The study will help benchmark with peers in a standard service portfolio the overall budget to enable learning and teaching. The Library selected the National Association of College and University Business Officers (NACUBO) for the work.

The library's 3rd floor will be closed for renovations through January 2024. Like the 4th floor before it, this renovation will allow for the installation of a new "smart" lighting and HVAC system. During the 3rd floor closure, resources on 1st (media and new books), 2nd (popular collection, DVDs, periodicals, reference), and 4th floors (juvenile) will still be available.



Meriam Library has long been the heart of the Chico State campus and a pivotal component of the educational experience for tens of thousands of students. Now, with [a \\$1 million donation of a planned gift by an impassioned alumnus](#), a new endowment will support its operations and offerings for generations to come.

The donor, who wants to remain anonymous, acknowledged the wealth of impacts he has witnessed from libraries at all levels throughout his life, and he credits the Meriam Library and its staff as the most useful resource in earning his degree and achieving other academic goals. At a university, he noted, the library is often the common denominator—one which supports student success for the duration through its many resources and dedicated staff.



2022-23 Statistics and Additional Highlights:

- Meriam Library had 222,780 visits in the last year, this includes 165 scheduled appointments in our Makerspace.
- Meriam Library loaned 5,433 and borrowed 2,094 books and articles through interlibrary loan.
- Our librarians responded to 853 reference questions and held 110 classes.
- This year we purchased a total of 37,297 physical and electronic items (this includes physical books, ebooks, media, and periodicals).
- More 391,612 searches were conducted using OneSearch on Meriam Library's website; in fall 2022 alone more than 487,617 database searches were conducted.
- The library circulated more than 15,744 physical items (this includes media, tech lending, Special Collections materials and more than 11,200 books).
- Members of our team collaborated with Graduate Studies to improve the student submissions process by incorporating universal design principles and removing unnecessary barriers.
- Liberal studies capstones and honors theses are now included in Scholarworks, the campus Institutional Repository, to support high-impact learning practices in undergraduate education.
- Meriam Library has modernized its proxy server which is used for off-campus access to electronic library materials. Proxy authentication now utilizes Shibboleth Single Sign On through the CSU Portal and Duo. This was done in order to provide patrons with a more consistent user experience and better align library services and tools with standardized campus technology.
- Butte County Library and Meriam Library have continued their partnership to provide OneCard. [OneCard allows CSU students, staff, and faculty to use their Wildcat Card to access Butte County Library's electronic resources.](#)

Professional & Continuing Education



Professional & Continuing Education (PCE) expands Chico State's impact to a wide variety of learners on campus, throughout the region, across the state, and globally by creating responsive, relevant, and transformational educational opportunities. A highlight of this year is PCE's Strategic Action Plan for 2023-24. The development of this plan has been a highly collaborative team effort focused on our five strategic priorities that support the University's Strategic Plan and guide our work.



Organizational Vibrancy and Responsiveness

In July 2022, Regional & Continuing Education officially became Professional & Continuing Education. This name change aligns Chico State with the CSU system-wide adoption of "PaCE" Professional and Continuing Education as the brand for the Extended University. The new name also more accurately reflects the types of students we serve and the geographical reach of the programs we offer.

PCE's organizational structure supports professional development and growth opportunities for our employees. Three employees advanced in their career through recruitment and reclassification processes to higher level positions within PCE, and

three new positions were filled to expand our capacity.

PCE's 2022-23 academic year had a moving finale. The establishment of the Office of Tribal Relations in the Center for Continuing Education building, which had been RCE/now-PCE's home for more than five decades, has been on the Campus Master Plan with a target date of 2030. Through the fundraising efforts of the Mechoopda Tribe and the leadership of President Hutchinson, that move was accelerated. With a quick turnaround, PCE employees relocated to the west wing of Colusa Hall. PCE staff demonstrated exceptional resilience and professionalism as all hands turned to the logistics of the move and reimagining how we do our work.

Expanded Partnerships

PCE is advancing regional partnerships through work with the California Adult College Completion Program (CACCP), which promotes degree attainment to adult learners in the north state and beyond, and Building Rural Community Learning Systems (BRCLS), which engages with workforce development organizations to position a Chico State degree as an attainable and desirable investment. PCE is expanding our portfolio of technology and business science training programs through current and new industry education providers, including Amazon Web Services (AWS), Microsoft, and EC-Council.

Relevant and Robust Programming

Summer Session and Winter Session give Chico State students more opportunities to succeed.

Summer Session 2022

- Courses—135
- Enrollments—3,162
- Revenue—\$2,592,600
- Cost Recovery to Campus—\$733,452
- Partner Revenue —\$26,358
- Student Grants
PCE Grants: \$355,000 to 645 students
GI 2025 Completion Grants: \$85,149 to 155 students

Winter Session 2023

- Courses—26
- Enrollments—699
- Revenue—\$629,100
- Cost Recovery to Campus—\$198,194
- Partner Revenue—\$57,174
- Student Grants
PCE Grants: \$104,500 to 190 students



PCE partnered with Chico State's Advancing Equity Project to create the Summer Boost Program.

- \$425,000 GI 2025 special funding received for Summer 2022.
- Free classes were provided for 137 first year students with financial need who were unsuccessful in selected courses that data show are key to student retention and success. 115 (84%) of Summer Boost participants persisted to fall 2022.
- Additional \$125,000 funding for summer 2023 with a projected enrollment +100.

OLLI at Chico State continues to expand access to lifelong learning opportunities with a mix of classes that are 38% online, 49% in the classroom, and 13% outdoors in the fall, spring, and summer terms.

Highlights of the 2022–23 year include:

- 753 members, up from 681 members in FY21 (10.6% increase)
- 187 classes and special events
- 173 volunteer instructors and guest presenters
- \$97,397 in total donations, gifts, and business sponsorships

Professional development programs give working adults opportunities for skill building and career advancement.

- Center for Regenerative Agriculture and Resilient Systems served 47 agriculture professionals from across the state.
- The Preliminary Administrative Services Credential graduate certificate program served 38 teachers on their career path to become school principals.
- The California Teachers Association University Credit program gave thousands of teachers across the state the opportunity to broaden their skills through professional development and earn a total of 19,599 academic credits to advance their salaries.

The \$4.1M multi-year contract for the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) Executive Leadership Institute recently graduated its 36th Cohort and has served more than 600 CDCR leaders.



PCE participated in a sub-committee of the Educational Policies and Programs Committee of the Academic Senate to revise policy that will allow for the future development of certificates that can be offered as stand-alone micro-credentials for non-degree seeking students. The updated policy will go into effect fall 2023.



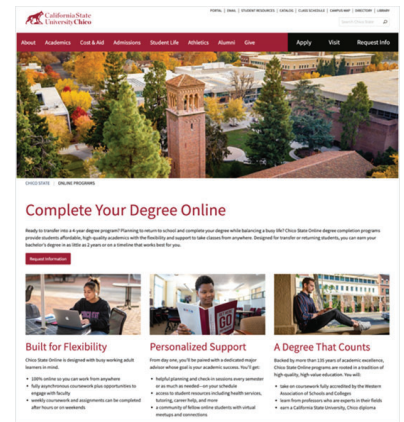
The Northern California Autism Symposium, which started with a specific focus to improve knowledge and acceptance of those on the autism spectrum, evolved into the [Neurodiversity and Disability Symposium](#) in 2022 in support of a broader neurodiversity perspective and the many disabled individuals and their families within our region. The aim of the Neurodiversity and Disability Symposium is to amplify the voices of those who identify as neurodivergent and/or disabled, and educate families, educators, and service providers in our region and beyond.

The next Neurodiversity and Disability Symposium will be held on February 2, 2024. Registration will open in October. The [keynote speaker will be Temple Grandin](#), a world-renowned autism spokesperson known for her unique ability to express “an inside narrative” of the disorder.

Marketing and Recruiting

PCE leads marketing and recruiting efforts for the Chico State Online suite of graduate degree and undergraduate degree-completion programs in a wide variety of ways:

- Market research
- Outreach and advertising
- Information sessions
- Direct recruiting to prospective students
- Advocating for access to student services and campus resources through online orientations, tutoring, career services



In 2022–23, more than 1,300 diverse adults were able to access a Chico State education while balancing their work, family, and community obligations.

State-Support Online Enrollments

Total Students in 2022–23: 856

- BA in Liberal Studies—258
- BA in Religious Studies—42
- BA in Social Science—129
- BA in Social Work—76
- BA in Sociology—351
- BA in Multicultural and Gender Studies (Launching F23)
- BA in Humanities (Launching F23)

Self-Support Online Enrollments

Total Students in 2022–23: 469

- MS in Agricultural Education—62
- Online BS in Business Administration—122
- Online MBA—190
- BS in Nursing for RNs—32
- Preliminary Administrative Services Credential Program—49
- Ed Technology and Distance Learning Certificate—14

Our work this year has paved the way for Chico State to welcome 30 new students this fall for the fully online BA in Multicultural and Gender Studies and Humanities programs. Applications for all state-support programs have increased from 479 to 875 from fall 2021 to fall 2023—an 82% increase that demonstrates the growing demand for online programming.

Strategic Resource Generation and Fiscal Stewardship

To help offset University budget shortfalls and increase revenue sources, PCE continues to distribute a percentage of program revenue in the form of cost recovery and campus partner distributions:

- FY 2022–23 Projected Revenue: \$10,345,818
- FY 2022–23 Projected Cost Recovery: \$2,933,910
- Business and Finance: \$549,908
- Academic Affairs: \$1,598,037
- Student Affairs: \$368,954
- Information Technology: \$292,157
- FY 2022–23 Projected Campus Partner Distributions: \$124.853
- CSE Admin and Indirect: \$205,777
- Contribution to the Campus Mission (5% of CSE revenue): \$13,452

Scholarships from the Bernard Osher Foundation and the Crankstart Foundation were awarded to 28 returning adult students for the 2022–2023 academic year by the Reentry Student Scholarship Committee chaired by PCE. This year these students received \$117,494.

QuickStart Partners with California State University, Chico's Professional & Continuing Education

The new partnership between QuickStart and the Chico State Professional & Continuing Education department will provide [online IT bootcamp programs to University students](#).



TODAY ▽ DECIDES ▽ TOMORROW

