



Thoughts on Diversity Forum from President Castro

Dear Colleagues:

Over the past six months of service as your President, I have enjoyed many memorable moments with you. One of the most memorable was last week during the panel discussion focused on diversity issues at Fresno State.

I will not forget the incredibly positive feeling I experienced when I sat the table and looked out to see so many of you in the audience. You were there because diversity is an important issue and because you care deeply about Fresno State.



I want to thank the members of the President's Commission on Human Relations and Equity, chaired by Vice President Matson, for their leadership in organizing the entire day of thoughtful discussions. I also appreciate the active participation of everyone that day, especially those who joined me on the panel regarding race relations – Rusty Barcelo, Gwen Burks, Jody Hironaka-Juteau and Malik Simba.

My overall goal in this area is to create and sustain an environment at Fresno State where everyone thrives. Because of the strength of our campus community, we have a strong foundation from which we can continue to build. Doing so will require engagement by and effort from each of us. I ask you to consider what "Being Bold" means in this area for you and to discuss this with your colleagues. I then invite you to take actions that you believe will help to further strengthen our campus community.

As I said to a colleague on that day, "You are not invisible to me." Everyone matters. Every voice matters. Together, we will make Fresno State the best university of its kind in the nation. We will do this because the people of the Valley deserve it. I feel the energy building on campus and throughout the Valley because of the steps we are taking to ensure a bright future. I can see our ascension to new heights of excellence.

Will you join me in this effort? It is our time to do bigger and greater things. Let the generations that come after us marvel at our boldness on their behalf.

Sincerely,

Joseph I. Castro, Ph.D., M.P.P.
President

