



August 9, 2013

Dear Fresno State Community:

I write to you after an exciting first week as your new President!

I have had the opportunity to meet with many students, staff, faculty, alumni and friends. Fresno State is a great university and everyone is passionate about its continued success. My overall goal as President is to work with you to make it an even greater place for many generations to come. I am thrilled to be here!

I have enjoyed the opportunity to meet with groups – large and small – and with a good number of individuals. I have listened to everyone carefully and I have learned so much already. I have particularly enjoyed walking around the campus each day during the lunch hour, which has allowed me to have had informal chats with many of you as well as K-12 students visiting us for various summer camps. I will continue to walk around the campus during the noon hour on every day that I can.

I began my first day by meeting with students, faculty and staff leaders, and media. My message was simple: I am here for everyone at Fresno State. I want everyone to succeed!

Last weekend, I had an opportunity to meet with local, state and federal leaders to discuss water challenges in the Valley and state. This is an important area of academic strength at Fresno State. Many of the leaders who came to campus for the Water Summit had not visited before and commented on how beautiful it is. Jerry Meral from Governor Brown's office was particularly impressed with the way that we have provided access to students from throughout the Valley, including those who are first in the family to attend college.

I have also met with many of our community leaders in my first days as President. Mary and I visited the Fresno Art Museum on Thursday and the African American Museum on Monday and received a very warm welcome from business and community leaders from throughout the Valley. On Friday evening, I met on campus with the Latino Mayors group from cities around the region, including many alumni, who pledged their continued support for our campus. Tuesday, I met with the Table Mountain Rancheria Council leadership. I thanked them for their generosity and pledged my support to sustain and strengthen our partnership with them.

On a personal note, my family and I moved into University House last Saturday. The new paint, furniture and carpeting look great! I appreciate the efforts of the staff members who worked on this project. We are very honored to live there and we look forward to

opening University House for our combined campus and community events. Our young son, Jess, has been running around the backyard and we are all enjoying the swimming pool. Our daughter, Lauren, has been with us for the past week and will return to Humboldt State for her fourth year later this month. Our oldest son, Isaac, lives in the Bay Area and plans to join us for a few football games this season.

I will stay in close touch with you and I look forward to seeing and meeting those of you I have not yet met.

Go Dogs!

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