



CALIFORNIA  
STATE  
UNIVERSITY,  
FRESNO

February 7, 2017

I am pleased to serve as Presidential Sponsor for the American Council on Education Northern California Network. As a former fellow of ACE's Spectrum Executive Leadership Program and other professional education experiences, I understand the important role that higher education leadership programs play in the identification and development of academic leaders.

As a result of the opportunities afforded me over my career, I have been able to serve in a variety of faculty and administrative positions within the UC system at the Berkeley, Davis, Merced and Santa Barbara campuses, as well as at the Office of the President. Each of these positions allowed me to develop my leadership knowledge and skills, culminating in my Presidency at Fresno State beginning in 2013. It is gratifying to know that others recognized my leadership potential early in my career and mentored me in a direction that now allows me to lead the largest CSU campus in Central California.

As a native of a Central Valley farming community, and the first person in my family to graduate from a university, I understand how important universities are to society and how they can transform people's lives. My accomplishments might have never occurred if higher education had not welcomed me, valued my diverse background and my potential to succeed in higher education. My experiences have taught me how crucial mentoring and leadership development programs are in higher education. I also understand the important role they play in preparing future leaders in higher education. I am committed to supporting ACE's efforts to foster greater diversity and inclusion in higher education, particularly within the senior leadership. Fresno State is stronger because of the five talented women on the President's Cabinet, all of whom are alumni.

I am honored to serve as a Presidential Sponsor for the ACE Northern California Network and urge every campus in our region to support its development and the ACE mission. I also hope you will attend Network events to facilitate the networking of women interested in pursuing leadership opportunities in higher education.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Joseph I. Castro".

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

**Office of the President**

Harold H. Haak Administrative Center  
Henry Madden Library, Suite 4104  
5200 North Barton Ave. M/S ML48  
Fresno, California 93740-8014

559.278.2324  
Fax 559.278.4715