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FRESNO

August 3, 2015



Welcome to the American Council on Education Northern California Network!

I am pleased to serve as Presidential Sponsor for this 2015-16 event. As a former fellow of the 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 posts 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 at 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 preparing future leaders in higher education. I am committed to supporting the ACE's efforts to foster greater diversity and inclusion in higher education, particularly within the senior leadership.

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 the Network's fall conference entitled "Moving the Needle by Advancing Women Who Lead" and other Network events to facilitate the networking of women interested in pursuing leadership opportunities in higher education.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Joseph I. Castro".

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

Office of the President

JIC/dmr

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