

# President's Message



## **The 2011-2012 General Catalog**

As we launch our second century as Central California's premiere institution of higher education, we are in special position to look back on 100 years of accomplishments and forward to what promises to be an exciting future for California State University, Fresno.

Fresno State has been a university of opportunity throughout its history. It was founded in 1911 because the San Joaquin Valley needed teachers to educate the growing population. Since then, tens of thousands of Central California students — many of them the first in their family to attend college — have achieved their dreams by studying Agriculture, Business, Education, Social Sciences, Arts and Humanities, Engineering, Health and Human Services, and Science and Mathematics.

Fresno State-trained innovators, entrepreneurs, and educated thinkers have extended the university's influence far beyond our Valley. Their accomplishments range from the basics of feeding a hungry world and

bringing life-saving water to thirsty people to investigating the very origins of our universe.

Amazing work in 100 years, and many more amazing stories are to come!

Now, as throughout our history, we are a learning community that values scholarship and creative thinking, and we are uniquely poised to provide a quality education to all our students. The Smittcamp Family Honors College combines the best of a small liberal arts college experience with the advantages of a large public university. At Fresno State our number one priority is to enhance continuously the quality of the learning environment we provide our students.

Engagement with our community and region is one of our top priorities. We have many academic centers and institutes that provide applied research and service; students, staff, and faculty contributed more a million hours this past year to the needs of others in our region.

The *General Catalog* reflects the university's ongoing commitment to academic excellence. This tradition grows as we actively recruit highly qualified students. The university will continue to offer a breadth of study that includes degrees at the bachelor's and master's level and at the doctoral level in selected fields. Students from all walks of life — of many ethnicities, cultures, and economic backgrounds — participate in the Fresno State learning community as they strive to meet their academic goals.

Fresno State is a rich and diverse learning community. Our faculty, staff, and administrators are all committed to your success. Welcome to the second century at Fresno State!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John D. Welty". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a distinct "J" at the beginning.