

## THE CALIFORNIA STATE COLLEGES

The academic year 1971-72 marks for the California State Colleges the beginning of their second decade of service to the people of California as a unified system of public higher education—the largest such system in the Western Hemisphere and one of the largest in the world. Brought together as a system under the independent Board of Trustees as a result of the Donahoe Higher Education Act in the early 1960's, the California State Colleges now number nineteen, covering the state from Humboldt State College in the north to San Diego State College in the south. Current enrollment exceeds 244,000 full- and part-time students, with a faculty of approximately 14,000.

Responsibility for the California State Colleges is vested in the Board of Trustees, whose members are appointed by the Governor, and the Chancellor, who is the executive officer of the system. The Trustees and the Chancellor develop system-wide policy, with implementation taking place at the campus level. The Academic Senate of the California State Colleges, consisting of elected representatives of the faculty at each college, recommends academic policy to the Board of Trustees through the Chancellor.

Each college in the system has its own geographic and curricular character, but all emphasize the liberal arts and sciences. Programs leading to the bachelor's and master's degrees are master planned to anticipate and accommodate student interest and the educational and professional needs of the State of California. A limited number of joint doctoral programs are also offered. Although there is increasing recognition of the importance of research to the maintenance of quality teaching, the primary responsibility of the faculty continues to be the instructional process.

While San Jose State College, the oldest, was founded over a century ago, prior to World War II only seven State Colleges were in existence, with a total enrollment of 13,000. Since 1947, twelve new colleges have been established, and sites have been selected for additional campuses in Ventura, San Mateo, and Contra Costa counties. California State College, Bakersfield, the newest, was opened to students only last year. Enrollment in the system is expected to pass 400,000 by 1980.

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A group of thirteen citizens of Fresno and vicinity appointed by the Trustees of the California State Colleges as an advisory body to the administration of Fresno State College.

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