

productive careers and responsible world citizenship. Building upon the strength of these undergraduate programs, graduate programs provide opportunities for personal and career enhancement through advanced study, preparing students for positions of leadership in the arts, sciences and professions.

The university encourages and protects free inquiry and expression, ensuring a forum for the generation, discussion and critical examination of ideas. By emphasizing the primacy of quality teaching and the close interaction between faculty and students, the university seeks to stimulate scholarly inquiry and discourse, inspire creative activity, heighten professional and technical competencies, encourage and support research and its dissemination, and recruit and develop outstanding teacher-scholars/artists.

The university fosters an environment in which students learn to live in a culturally diverse and changing society. Within that environment, it strives to develop a community founded upon mutual respect and shared efforts, in which individuals can communicate openly and work together to enrich the lives of all and to further the growth and excellence of the university. The university seeks and encourages historically underrepresented students to embark upon and complete a university education.

The university serves the San Joaquin Valley while interacting with the state, nation and world. California State University, Fresno is a center of intellectual, artistic and professional activity. Through applied research, technical assistance, training and other related public service activities, the university anticipates continuing and expanding partnership and linkages with business, education, industry and government.

The University's History

California State University, Fresno is the sixth oldest in the California State University system. It began with the establishment of the first junior college in California in 1910 and a state normal school in 1911 which, under a single administration, offered two-year programs in general and vocational training and in teacher preparation.

Between 1911 and 1921 a campus was built on University Avenue, then the northern border of Fresno. In 1921, the combined schools became Fresno State Teachers College, authorized to offer a four-year program and grant the bachelor of arts degree in teaching.

In 1935, by act of the Legislature, the official designation became Fresno State College. A variety of degree programs, in addition to those related to the teaching credential, were authorized at that time. Following World War II, expansion accelerated, both academically and physically. In 1949, the university offered its first master's degree; today, it offers this degree in 39 fields of study.

Between 1953 and 1958 the college was moved from the old campus site, by then surrounded by the city of Fresno, to a

1,410-acre site six miles to the northeast. In 1961, under the newly created California State College system, the administration and control of the state colleges was transferred from the State Board of Education to an independent board, the Trustees of The California State Colleges. By legislative action in 1972, the state college system became The California State University and Colleges, and in 1982 the system was renamed The California State University.

In fall 1991, the university began offering an interdisciplinary doctoral degree (Ed.D.) in educational leadership, offered in partnership with the University of California.

