

President's Message



Photo by Michael Karibian

The 2009-2010 *General Catalog*

This is an exciting time to be a student at California State University, Fresno. 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 more than 50 academic centers and institutes that provide applied research and service; students contribute more than 600,000 hours a year to the needs of others in our region. Through the Jan and Bud Richter Center for Community Engagement and Service-Learning, Fresno State students are making a significant difference in the lives of the residents of Central California. Students are also engaged in intern-

ships, cooperative learning programs, and other initiatives that allow them to contribute their skills and experiences to our community.

Through our “*Plan for Excellence III: 2006-2011*,” we are seeking to become one of the top 10 comprehensive engaged universities in the country. Our emphasis will be on promoting the success of students, advancing graduate education, engaging with the region, generating private support, and building our community. The *Plan for Excellence III* serves as our guide as we move forward to meet ever new challenges. Our current plan includes new instructional delivery systems using the latest technology, partnerships with all levels of education, greater reliance on non-state sources of support, more efficient use of our facilities, and a commitment to both undergraduate and graduate students in new and existing high quality academic programs. During your time at Fresno State, you will benefit from many of these changes.

The *General Catalog* reflects the university's ongoing commitment to academic excellence. This tradition will continue to grow 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, of both sexes, and of all economic levels 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.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "J. D. Welty". The signature is fluid and cursive, written in a professional style.