**California State University, Fresno and the College of Science and Mathematics**

The University: California State University, Fresno, one of the 23 campuses of the California State University System, is the premier regional university serving Central California's diverse, growing population. The University serves the San Joaquin Valley while interacting with state, nation and world. Service to our region is an important part of our mission. The prestigious Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching awarded Fresno State its Community Engagement Classification, acknowledging the university's extensive partnership with Central California. Washington Monthly recently ranked Fresno State 17th in their list of top 30 national universities. Fresno State, with a current enrollment of more than 22,000 students, is a minority serving institution and a federally designated Hispanic-Serving Institution, reflecting the rich diversity of Central California. The Smittcamp Family Honors College admits 50 of California's top high school graduates each year with full scholarships. Accredited by the California Board of Education and the Western Association of Schools and Colleges, the university offers 61 undergraduate degree programs and 45 master's degree programs in the liberal arts and sciences and in a variety of professional disciplines emphasizing agriculture, business, engineering and technology, health and human services, and education, as well as Doctoral programs in Educational Leadership, Physical Therapy, and Nursing. Through transformational applied research, technical assistance, training and other related public service activities, the university builds partnerships and linkages with business, education, industry and government. In 2011-2012, funding for sponsored research exceeded $41 million. Under a dense canopy of 4,000 trees, the campus, which has been designated as an arboretum, sits against a backdrop of the beautiful Sierra Nevada mountain range. Fresno is the fifth largest city in California and the surrounding San Joaquin Valley is one of the richest agricultural areas in the world. The university is within two hours of three national parks - Yosemite, Sequoia and Kings Canyon. Fresno is within easy driving distance of San Francisco, Los Angeles, the Monterey Peninsula, and Lake Tahoe. Beaches, sailing, lakes, camping, fishing, hiking and skiing resorts are nearby, and Fresno itself offers a wealth of cultural arts events; unique shopping and restaurant destinations; parks and bike/running trails that promote a healthy lifestyle; and affordable housing.

The College of Science and Mathematics, which consists of 108 full-time faculty and 134 part- time faculty, provides study for students in the areas of biology, chemistry, computer science, earth and environmental sciences, mathematics, physics, and psychology. With an emphasis on discovery and innovation, our rigorous and engaging curriculum and programs are designed to best prepare students for a number of exciting and diverse careers. Our goal is to provide professional training at the undergraduate and graduate levels to serve as a foundation for careers in science or mathematics, to provide pre-professional training in preparation for careers in medicine, dentistry, pharmacy, veterinary medicine and other professions, and for continued study at the graduate level. Support courses for non-science majors such as agriculture, engineering, and the health professions and courses for general education of all university students are also offered through the college. The College currently hosts the following Research Centers: Science and Math Education Center (SMEC) and the Downing Planetarium. In addition to formal partnerships with the Water Institute, the Central California Children's Institute, Moss Landing Marine Laboratories, and other entities. The College is involved in CSU collaborations with the CSUPERB and COAST initiatives and an international partnership with ATLAS/CERN. Currently the College, which has 3,800 undergraduate students and over 100 graduate students, offers 11 undergraduate majors and 12 graduate majors.

Students in our college work collaboratively with our faculty on diverse research projects addressing challenges in food, energy, water, health, sustainability, and the environment - challenges that are particularly relevant to the Central Valley. The college has a strong tradition of engaging students in hands-on “learning by doing” research projects that has been shown to enhance student technical, critical thinking, and communication skills that are so important for the 21st century workforce. In addition to the large number of students conducting research in individual labs (many of which are funded by NSF and NIH awards to our faculty), we are developing Course-based Undergraduate Research Experiences (CUREs) which have the potential to reach many more students earlier in their academic pathway. The integration of teaching and authentic research that occurs in CUREs also addresses student demand for courses that are more inquiry based, allowing them to work with real data, engage in troubleshooting of experiments, and providing more opportunities for creative input in experimental design. We are very proud of the accomplishments of our alumni who have gone on to important industry positions as well as prestigious graduate programs and highly ranked medical, dental, and pharmacy schools. It is our goal to continue graduating the next generation of scientists, mathematicians, teachers, and highly skilled technicians and doctors for the Central Valley and beyond.

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