



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**Statement on the selection of Joseph I. Castro
as the New California State University Chancellor**

Today, the California State University (CSU) Board of Trustees selected Joseph I. Castro as the eighth Chancellor of the CSU system.

“The CSU Board of Trustees could not have chosen a more perfect Chancellor. Joseph I. Castro is a first-generation university graduate, the grandson of Mexican immigrants, and born and raised in the Central Valley. He is emblematic of California’s college-aged students and has spent his career working to ensure students who are just like him have the chance to go to college and earn their degrees. He understands the urgency for action to improve CSU’s capacity, graduation rates and to replace racist policies that keep a college education away from too many Black, Asian, Native American and Latinx students,” stated Michele Siqueiros, president of the Campaign for College Opportunity.

Last year, the CSU Board of Trustees embarked upon a chancellor search to find the most qualified leader for the CSU and California in 2020. Today, they selected Joseph Castro, the first Mexican-American and the first chancellor from California’s Central Valley to lead the CSU system in its 163-year history.

Castro inherits an incredibly diverse 23-campus system, where more than 63% of all students are Latinx, Black, Native American and Asian American, Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islander. On day one, he will confront the challenges brought on by a global pandemic, the nation’s racial reckoning and what is likely to be severe budget cuts. “Joseph Castro is the leader we want steering the People’s University through this tumultuous time. As he has always done, he will make decisions with a student-first lens, whether in budgeting, hiring, admissions or student services,” added Siqueiros.

Joseph Castro has had a tremendous career in higher education in California. He spent 23 years at the University of California, where he held leadership positions in student and academic affairs at five campuses: Berkeley, San Francisco, Davis, Merced and Santa Barbara. For the past seven years, he has served as the president of Fresno State. During his tenure, Castro has propelled Fresno State to one of the nation’s leading public universities for graduation rate performance.

“The selection of Joseph Castro as CSU Chancellor is historic. We stand ready to work with Chancellor-elect Castro and his team to ensure the CSU system is an equitable engine of opportunity and prosperity for all Californians,” concluded Siqueiros.

Castro follows outgoing Chancellor Timothy White, who has served since 2013 and [announced his retirement](#) in 2019.

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About Campaign for College Opportunity:

The Campaign for College Opportunity is a California non-profit bipartisan policy and research organization focused on a single mission: to ensure all Californians have an equal opportunity to attend and succeed in college in order to build a vibrant workforce, economy and democracy. For more information, visit www.CollegeCampaign.org / Facebook.com/CollegeCampaign or follow [@CollegeOpp](https://twitter.com/CollegeOpp)