

*California State University, Chico
Search for the Dean, College of Agriculture
Chico, California*

California State University, Chico (CSU, Chico or Chico State) seeks a student-focused, forward-thinking leader for the position of Dean of the College of Agriculture. This is a distinct opportunity to head one of only four colleges of agriculture in the California State University system. Located in Northern California, in an area where agriculture is responsible for nearly one in five jobs and nearly \$6 billion of the local economy, Chico State is a Hispanic-Serving Institution that boasts one of the highest four-year graduation rates in the CSU system and one of the lowest average student debt amounts in the country. Enrollment in agriculture majors at Chico State has more than doubled in the last ten years, and the new Dean will propel the College to new heights in alignment with its mission to provide a transformative, high-quality, high-value education that supports students and the agriculture industry.

California is the #1 ranked state for agricultural production in the United States with a \$45-50 billion industry producing over 400 agricultural commodities. Ranging from walnut farmers to cattlemen, the diversity of agriculture in the state is stunning and like no other in the world. For 60 years, Chico State's College of Agriculture has been educating and equipping agricultural leaders with the theoretical knowledge, practical experience, and decision-making ability to thrive in this competitive marketplace. Its close, friendly nature combined with an integrated agricultural curriculum and remarkable access to hands-on education creates an unparalleled learning environment for students. Operating with integrated programs, the College consists of one division organized into four areas, including agricultural business; animal science; agricultural science & education; and plant and soil science. The College also houses the Center for Regenerative Agriculture and Resilient Systems and the Agribusiness Institute. Furthermore, the College operates the 800-acre Paul L. Byrne Memorial University Farm which offers students practical, hands-on experiences and a living laboratory for agricultural research across four kinds of livestock and a rich diversity of California crops.

Operating as part of the 23-campus California State University (CSU) system, Chico State is a comprehensive public university enrolling over 16,000 students. Founded in 1887, Chico State is the second-oldest CSU campus, and the anchor institution in Northern California, serving an expansive 12-county service area. Chico State is rated as a top-10 regional public university in the West by *U.S. News and World Report* and brings the campus motto, "Today Decides Tomorrow," to life through experiential learning, student-focused faculty, and innovative thinking on an historic campus in a beautiful natural setting.

The new Dean will be expected to maintain and deepen the College's rich tradition of practical, hands-on education even as enrollments continue to grow. This person will oversee the organizational and fiscal health of the College while partnering closely with faculty, students, industry, and the local agricultural community to envision an innovative future for the College. The Dean will do so by addressing the following key opportunities and challenges:

- Develop a vision and strategic plan that builds upon the College's many strengths and unites the College around a shared purpose and direction;
- Grow innovative academic programs to ensure students' academic and professional success;
- Provide strong organizational leadership and cohesion and further develop and support staff;

- Provide strong fiscal management and grow additional resources; and
- Serve as an ambassador and champion for the College and enhance visibility and reach across the University, region, the state, and beyond.

California State University Chico has retained Isaacson, Miller, a national executive search firm, to assist in this search. Screening of complete applications will begin immediately and continue until the position is filled. **For best consideration, please apply by March 31, 2021.** For more details, including the full position profile, and to submit inquiries, nominations, and applications, visit www.imsearch.com/7816.



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