



CALIFORNIA
STATE
UNIVERSITY,
FRESNO

December 7, 2020

To Whom It May Concern:

I am pleased to write this reference letter for Dr. Frank Lamas, who has served as Vice President of Student Affairs and Enrollment Management since 2014 and who will retire from California State University, Fresno on December 31, 2020.

Dr. Lamas has provided passionate student-centered leadership across the university for the past six years. During his service as Vice President, Fresno State's commitment to student success has been significantly strengthened. His efforts have contributed to a marked increase in graduation rates and decreased gaps in achievement between underrepresented and other students. We are making steady progress toward our campus' ambitious Graduation Initiative 2025 goals, in part, because of student-centered initiatives championed by Dr. Lamas.

With vital leadership provided by Dr. Lamas, Fresno State established one of the nation's first and most comprehensive basic needs programs in 2014. Fresno State has led the California State University (CSU) system with its focus on food, clothing housing and technology security. He and I worked closely together to secure private resources to support a good portion of these efforts. In addition, Dr. Lamas and I initiated one of the CSU's first Dream Centers, which focuses on student access and success. These efforts set the stage for the success that Fresno State has experienced during the pandemic with record student enrollment and retention.

The student experience at Fresno State will be forever improved because of Dr. Lamas' bold leadership. One prominent example is the new Linda and Stewart Resnick Student Union, which will open by early 2022. His work with colleagues and student leaders made a powerful difference in inspiring students to overwhelmingly pass a fee referendum to pay for much of its construction. The new student union will transform the experience for all students for decades to come.

Frank is a seasoned administrator who places students, particularly those from underrepresented backgrounds, at the forefront of his thinking as it relates to actions and decisions. He also collaborated with his Cabinet colleagues to enhance the effectiveness of the Student Affairs and Enrollment Management area at Fresno State.

I wish Frank the very best in his future endeavors.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "J. I. Castro".

Joseph I. Castro

Office of the President
Harold H. Haak Administrative Center
Henry Madden Library, Suite 4104
5200 North Barton Avenue M/S ML48
Fresno, CA 93740-8014

559.278.2324
Fax 559.278.4715