Implement a novel mixed research method that can monitor well-being indicators of students within the context of higher education to gather information on the impact of students' feelings of safety, belonging, and psychological well-being.

CURRENT CHALLENGE:

Student's experiences on campus complex. Campus culture emerges from countless interactions between students, faculty and staff within the special and temporal environment on campus, off campus, and increasingly also virtual. The threat on social media is an extreme example how events can influence the system. What information do we have on the impact on students' feelings of safety, belonging, and psychological well-being?

PROPOSED SOLUTION:

We propose a novel mixed research method that can monitor well-being indicators of students within the context of higher education. This research project will leverage the SenseMaker® software, which has been specifically developed to use this novel mixed methods research approach. Respondents will be asked to share experiences in an open format. For example: "Tell me about an experience where you or someone you know has overcome a barrier at the University in the last two weeks," OR "Tell me about an experience in the last two weeks at the University that has been positive or negative for your sense of well-being."

This qualitative data can be written text, pictures, audio files, video files etc. Respondents will then be asked to give sense to the submitted materials. The participants code the material. So SenseMaker® allows researchers to link micro-narratives with human sense-making to create advanced decision support, research and monitoring capability.

Quantitative data
Traditional quantitative data will be collected through a traditional survey software (Qualtrics), and use established psychological scales; hope (Adult hope scale (Snyder, 2000), belonging, growth mindset (Dweck, 2007), flourishing & purpose (Mental Health Continuum-Short Form, Keyes, 2009).

BENEFITS TO FRESNO STATE:

The university would be able to monitor campus culture and students' experience on a continuous basis.
And also engage in a two way dialog with 1000's of students. The data could be discussed with the students, faculty, staff and even the CSU system and community. It would be a unique approach to take a preventive stance and engage students, faculty, and staff in meaningful discussions. Advising services for example could quickly become aware of needs of students, and students would have a way to respond to inquiries by advising services. (e.g. Tell us about a time during the last week where you or someone you know felt safe or unsafe on campus.) The data collection process itself would be an intervention that connects students to the University and can raise the sense of belonging and safety.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

The President of the United States recently created the National Strategic Computing Initiative (NSCI) through Executive Order, saying, "In order to maximize the benefits of HPC for economic competitiveness and scientific discovery, the United States Government must create a coordinated Federal strategy in HPC research, development, and deployment.".