

Central Valley Emerging Leaders Summit

Objectives

The Central Valley Emerging Leaders Summit...

Explores leadership through experiential learning

Cultivates leadership skills and competencies

Fosters confidence in student's leadership capacity

Develops a network of student leaders in the Central Valley

Creates a space for participants to interact with Fresno State student leaders, faculty, and staff

Promotes college pathways for high school and community college students



History and Purpose

The Leaders Conference was one out of 157 "Bold Ideas" that was submitted by Fresno State faculty and staff in 2014. It was selected as a winning idea by the President's Cabinet.

The author of this bold idea was Anthony Bailey, who has worked in Plant Operations as a custodian for more than 27 years. In his own words, the bold idea "was to create a Valley-wide leadership conference for all high school and community college student body leaders in an effort to give Fresno State the advantage of recruiting the best students and present the University as one that is sensitive to future leaders."

The intention is to nurture and foster relationships with prospective future leaders from Valley schools, many who might aspire to one day attend Fresno State and become local leaders in our community.

A campus collaborative team was assembled through the Creativity and Innovation for Effectiveness (CAIFE) program, and charged with the development of a strategic plan to execute the conference. The team includes: Phong Jacob Yang (associate director for University Outreach Services), Dr. Jaime Arvizu (director of the Advising and Resources Center), Chris Fiorentino (director of the Jan and Bud Richter Center for Community Engagement and Service-Learning), Dr. Luz Gonzalez (dean of the College of Social Sciences), Dr. Susana Hernandez (faculty), Eddie Hughes (senior editor for University Communications) and Breanne Scogin (coordinator for University leadership programs).

The team has developed a comprehensive framework for a 2.5-day conference that includes an advisory committee, an application, selection criteria, speakers, conference topics, a venue, budget, housing and food.

Target Audience

At Fresno State, we believe in the students of the Central Valley — our emerging leaders — who come from diverse backgrounds to boldly achieve and make the Valley a better place.

Some students have already established themselves as leaders at their high schools and community colleges, and some haven't yet realized their leadership potential. Fresno State's new Central Valley Emerging Leaders Summit will help ignite that potential by fostering participant confidence and providing the tools and training to help Valley students excel.

This three-day, two-night summer event will bring Valley students to Fresno State to experience a dose of on-campus living and amenities while focusing on leadership development. Participants will take part in engaging workshops, learn new skills, and hear from inspirational speakers, all focused on supporting the unique student population within the Valley.

How do we define a student leader? Simple — everybody has the potential to be a leader! From the student body president at Orosi High School or Reedley College, to the most inspirational player on the softball team at Buchanan High, to the shy student at Madera High looking to get more involved — this conference is for you. Attendees will come away inspired and capable of taking initiative on their campuses with tools to make positive impacts in their communities.

Students will have the opportunity to network and build working relationships with peers and mentors throughout the Valley, including with current Fresno State student body leaders.