



# FROM THE DIVISION OF INCLUSIVE EXCELLENCE

## You Belong!

**Dear Hornets,**

Welcome to the Hornet's Nest, where everyone on this campus called Sacramento State belongs. This campus of more than 300 acres, more than 3,500 trees, Guy West Bridge over the American River, flower gardens, squirrels, coyotes, turkeys, and other wildlife, is on unceded homelands of the Indigenous Nisenan people, specifically the Nissim-Pawenan and Miwok. We, therefore, are on sacred grounds and are stewards, not owners, of this land. At Sacramento State, we believe our natural environment is one of our professors.

We are excited to have as the master professor and leader of this campus, a nationally known scholar, educator, and practitioner in President Luke Wood. As he shows his full authentic self by wearing fresh sneakers, he breaks the mold of the traditional president. We are excited about his leadership and witnessed a taste of the great plans and fun he has for us during the Fall Address, the Convocations, and the largest Nest Fest in Sac State history.

He introduced to our campus a new slogan, "Our Hive, Our Home," which is a metaphor for being in community at Sac State. We believe the Sac State community is perfectly situated to wrap around its students, staff, faculty, and administrators like a hive, to provide a place buzzing with activity and resources to make every person's time here feel like a comfortable home, where all can thrive.

As responsible caretakers of this campus who belong, you have the right to show up and bring your full authentic self; to co-construct a safe campus free from discrimination, harassment, and violence; to do no harm to yourself or others; to access every resource on campus whenever and wherever you need it; and to make good friends and good choices that lead you to your preferred future.

Belonging is one of the essential elements for fulfilling your dreams, showcasing your talents, reaching your potential, overcoming challenges, building strong and healthy relationships, completing your degree, and launching into a meaningful and impactful career. At Sacramento State, we look at belonging through the lens of our Antiracism and

Inclusive Campus Plan and have discovered three distinct types of belonging that are critical to our formula and system of success.

First, make at least one positive and productive friend, join a club or organization, and attend events that feed your soul; this is called **social belonging**. Second, ask questions, engage in your classroom discussions, attend faculty office hours, and discover something new about yourself and others. Your professors should teach and make accessible the language, philosophy, and culture of your college, department, and major, affirm your presence and ability to thrive at Sac State, and remove unnecessary barriers to success; this is called **academic belonging**. Finally, the institutional leaders must support you in having your basic needs met, providing trauma-informed and compassionate advising and guidance, and bringing resources close to you that are easily accessible, functional, and user-friendly; this is called **campus belonging**.

This year, through our Green and Gold Speaker Series, we will focus on belonging. To kick us off, we will learn together about the Latiné community and belonging at a Hispanic Serving Institution and Asian American Native American Pacific Islander Serving Institution at 2:30-4 p.m. Sept. 26, 2023, in the University Union Ballroom. Afterward, from 6-7:30 p.m., we will enjoy a musical concert from Las Cafeteras. You don't want to miss this opportunity to socialize, learn, and have fun.

It is my hope that every faculty member, club and organization leader, sorority and fraternity, staff and administrator, and Cabinet leader will take the time to read this message in their classroom, gathering, orientation, or meeting to get the word out that you and we belong. As we start this new academic year, which will be epic, let us live out this quote from Dr. Brené Brown: "True belonging is not passive. It's not the belonging that comes with just joining a group. It's not fitting in or pretending or selling out because it's safer. It's a practice that requires us to be vulnerable, get uncomfortable, and learn how to be present with people without sacrificing who we are."

**In partnership,**

**Dr. Mia Settles-Tidwell**

**Vice President of Inclusive Excellence and University Diversity Officer**

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