

Neighborhoods

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A tradition is reborn

The New Student Convocation welcomes freshman, transfer and graduate students to Fresno State

By Reyna Cazares
SPECIAL TO NORTHEAST
NEIGHBORS

Last week, nearly 6,000 freshman, transfer and graduate students started their journey at Fresno State. To prepare for their trek into success, they received a special welcoming: The New Student Convocation.

As students walked into Save Mart Center on Monday, Aug. 24, faculty, staff and alumni showered them with praises and positive messages.

It was an afternoon of joy, to say the least. The New Student Convocation was recently resurrected after nearly a decade of hiatus.

President Dr. Joseph I. Castro said Fresno State was excited to bring back a tradition that celebrates a new life experience for students.

Fresno State usually welcomes freshmen during Drop Days, said Dr. Frank

Lamas, vice president for student affairs and enrollment management.

But Castro and Lamas wanted to assure incoming students that they could trust Fresno State as their new home away from home.

"There are a lot of people who care about them and want to help them succeed," Lamas added.

Hundreds of excited students waited patiently before the ceremony began. The ceremony consisted of a series of videos that demonstrated academic life, co-curricular activities and athletics on campus.

Jenny Toste, digital media specialist for Fresno State, served as the mistress of ceremonies and opened by introducing staff and faculty.

Attendees also listened to remarks from Castro; Dr. Lynnette Zelezny, provost and vice president for



Transfer student Joel Kim is going to major in computer inform...

academic affairs; Lamas, vice president for student affairs and enrollment management; Dr. Honora Chapman, professor of modern and classical languages and literature; and Abigail Hudson, president and CEO of Associated Students Inc.

Zelezny advised students to go make the best out of their college experience.

"I urge you to push yourself, challenge yourself, think creatively, and independently; most of all, always dream big and be bold," she said.

The ceremony also included performances by the Fresno State Bulldog Marching Band and the Fresno State Cheer Team.

TimeOut and Victor E. Bulldog III made appearances to take pictures with students.

Castro encouraged students to participate in things of interest during their years at Fresno State.

"Try an internship, conduct research, join a club or two, run for student body president — all of these opportunities are here for you to seize and take pride in," he urged.

Immediately following the ceremony, a Bulldog Bash after-party was held next door at the Student Recreation Center.

Students were able to hear about clubs, munch on kettle corn and listen to music while participating in activities like rock climbing, indoor skating and laser tag.

Freshman Bianca Carballo said she was happily surprised at how much effort Fresno State put towards the convocation.

"I thought we were just going to attend the ceremony and get sent home right after," Carballo said.

Transfer student Joel Kim said he's looking forward to joining a few clubs.

Lamas said one of Fresno State's objectives is to make students feel like they belong: "The way you feel a sense of belonging is when you can connect."



Freshman Bianca Carballo will be majoring in mass communications and journalism.



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