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Greetings! What a wonderful year it has been! I continue to be awed and inspired by the generosity of our University supporters, especially our Tower Society members, who have stepped forward in growing numbers to demonstrate true leadership as we transform lives. It is my honor and privilege to introduce the 2016–17 members of the Tower Society and recognize the essential role they play in supporting tomorrow’s leaders.

The Tower Society started less than two years ago with a bold vision—to build a culture of philanthropy at Chico State. In 2016–17, membership grew to 678 members and 163 Graduates of the Last Decade (GOLD) members. That represents a 43 percent rise in Tower Society membership, as more people embrace the opportunity to expand real-world opportunities and life-changing experiences for our students so they can make their mark on our community, our nation, and our world.

Together, 15,026 alumni, students, parents, and friends raised a record \$14,818,352 million in 2016–17—40 percent of which was generated by Tower Society members. They helped us pass the 50 percent mark in our effort to raise \$100 million by 2020 for three priorities: empowering student success, renovating and building cutting-edge learning spaces, and investing in people by establishing endowments for scholarships, faculty support, and programs.

Thanks to our family of donors, we awarded more than \$2.3 million in scholarships; established new student success centers in several colleges; introduced new courses and sent students to national and international conferences; made great headway on lab renovations that provide students with state-of-the-art equipment, safety upgrades, and new workspace; facilitated hands-on learning through summer research institutes; and distributed state-of-the-art technology across all disciplines.

In short, our Tower Society members, along with other donors, have made a promise to help us change lives. In taking their investment in people and programs to the next level, their impact is far-reaching and never-ending. And with it, we continue to enhance our buildings and facilities, scholarships, faculty endowments, academic programs, athletics, public services, and other campus programs.

Together, our Tower Society members continue to inspire others to give more and invest in the next generation like never before. I invite you to join this community of leaders and supporters, as together, we build a bold tomorrow for Chico State.

Sincerely,

Ahmad Boura
Vice President for University Advancement