

Good afternoon and Welcome to Fresno State! Welcome to our Celebration and Welcome to our new home! I'm Scott Moore, dean of the Division of Continuing and Global Education, I am also privileged to serve as the Interim Executive director for Lyles Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship at Fresno State. I'm delighted to welcome all of you as well as my teams in Continuing and Global Education and the Lyles Center, along with Cabinet members President Joe Castro, Provost Lynnette Zelezny, Vice President Frank Lamas, Vice President Paula Castadio, Associate Vice President Shirley Armbrusher and Executive Director Larry Salinas. It's nice to see so many familiar faces as we celebrate Fresno State downtown in our new satellite campus right here, inside the exciting Bitwise South Stadium. Our downtown presence began many years ago. We have been offering several courses throughout downtown in a variety of degree programs. But about 3 years ago, we reached out to Bitwise to explore deeper community partnerships that we believed would impact our region. At that time, I could only have hoped for the rich, productive and meaningful relationships we would build. Today, we celebrate these relationships with the official opening of our downtown classrooms.

To get this party started, I am most pleased to introduce our visionaries of Fresno State. Those who nudge the university toward greater opportunities and greater audiences, our own President Castro and Provost Zelezny. First, President Castro will give a few remarks and introduce our guest speakers. Then, Provost Zelezny will greet you herself. So let me begin with our rockstar, a leader who has truly transformed the educational landscape of the Central Valley in a short period of time. A leader who knows first hand the importance and impact of higher education and a leader who is committed to student success. Please join me in welcoming President Joseph Castro.

***President Castro – 2 minutes.***

- ***Introduces Mayor Swearingin, Supervisor Perea, Councilman Caprioglio together – 30 seconds each.***

On a university campus, the lead academic administrator is called the Provost, who serves as the Chief Academic Officer of the University. A Provost has enormous impact on a university culture. The Provost is responsible for ensuring academic programs remain current and pushes them to be cutting-edge. A Provost has the ultimate responsibility to assure students receive a high-quality, outcome based, and engaged education. And on our campus, perhaps more than other campuses, our Provost is focused on student success. With her leadership, students will enjoy academic careers that are both rich and rewarding. With her leadership, students become prepared to engage the workforce.

Let me also say, on a personal note, our provost is my model for supportive, transformational and effective leadership. She represents the gold standard of outcome based administrative initiatives. She leads by gently prodding the campus toward changes that benefit our students, staff and region. And it is her leadership that brought us here today. Please join me in welcoming Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, Lynnette Zelezny.

***Provost Zelezny - 2 minutes.***

***Back to Dean Scott Moore.***

In our history, Fresno State has offered dozens of professional development courses throughout the Central Valley, including right here in downtown Fresno. Now we have a permanent home, a permanent name, and a permanent presence.

So whether you are looking for opportunities to acquire new skill sets, transitioning into a new career, or interested in continuing your education into the next chapter of life, look to Fresno State. Look to us for professional development courses designed to engage the downtown workforce. Look to us for instruction on business communication, fundraising, philanthropy, grant writing, digital marketing, and a myriad of programs on business development.

Our Downtown Center is an opportunity to engage educational access, opportunity, and innovation through our strategic partnerships that include the Bitwise family, Geekwise academy, the Fresno Advertising Federation, the Community Media Access Collaborative, the Better Business Bureau, the Downtown Fresno Partnership, and The City of Fresno Water Division. To our partners, thank you for sharing our vision.

So with that, I think it is time to officially open our classrooms. President Castro, Provost Zelezny. Would you please join me?

### ***Cut ribbon***

In conclusion today, I would like to thank our community partners. A special thank-you to Jake Soberal, and to our academic deans from both within the Fresno State community and from around the state who are joining us today. And a very special shout out to my CGE staff, Susan, David, Teresa, Frank, Daniel and the whole team! Thank you for making today such a success!

We invite you to tour the building and see this outstanding facility and learn more about Bitwise South Stadium. Please feel free to stay for our workshop tonight at 5:30 pm – Creating a Water-wise Landscape with Susan Stiltz, courtesy of the City of Fresno Water Conservation Division. Thank you for joining us today, and enjoy some refreshments and Fresno State wine on the main floor.