

c/o Office of the College of Ethnic Studies  
César E. Chávez Institute  
San Francisco State University  
1600 Holloway Avenue EP103  
San Francisco, CA 94132

April 23, 2019

Dear Legislators

On behalf of the over 200 members of the California State University (CSU) Ethnic Studies Council, we write to support the requirement of Ethnic Studies for students in the California State University (CSU) system, and, in fact, across public education K-12, Community College (CC), and University of California (UC) Systems. Today, however, we focus on the committee's consideration of AB 1450, which specifically speaks to the need in the CSU.

If there were ever a moment that reveals on a daily basis why the education of a modern citizen must include curricula on racial and ethnic diversity through the lens of liberation struggles of peoples who have made this nation and world more just and humane, this moment is heralding this philosophical and academic imperative.

In addition, we are aware that you have received volumes of evidence of the value of Ethnic Studies as reviewed in a range of documents including the National Education Association's review by Sleeter (2011, <http://www.nea.org/assets/docs/NBI-2010-3-value-of-ethnic-studies.pdf>), the independent evaluation of the success of Ethnic Studies in advancing the academic achievement of high school students (<https://news.stanford.edu/2016/01/12/ethnic-studies-benefits-011216/>), and the recent report documenting the success of students who succeed at even one Ethnic Studies course, no matter their major, graduating at almost a 20% greater rate than their peers in their respective majors (<https://www.insidehighered.com/news/2018/07/09/san-francisco-state-finds-evidence-ethnic-studies-students-do-better>).

Thus, we write in support of requiring Ethnic Studies in the California State University system. This recommendation is based on the very first and keystone recommendation in the Chancellor's blue-ribbon Task Force on the Advancement of Ethnic Studies. This report took several years to prepare by a team of University Presidents, Chancellor's Office representatives, CSU Academic Senate representation, CSU Student Governance representation, and representation from the CSU Ethnic Studies Council. The report was probably the most vetted report in the system's history soliciting feedback from the CSU Board of Trustees, CSU Chancellor's Office, Campus Presidents and Provosts, the ASCSU and the 23 Campuses Academic Senates, the CSSA and the 23 campus AS, and individual feedback from every faculty member in any discipline across the 23 campuses. We invite you to read this historic document (<https://www2.calstate.edu/impact-of-the-csu/diversity/advancement-of-ethnic-studies>).

**California State University (CSU) Campuses**

Bakersfield • Channel Islands • Chico • Domínguez Hills • East Bay • Fresno • Fullerton • Humboldt • Long Beach  
Los Angeles • Maritime Academy • Monterey Bay • Northridge • Pomona • Sacramento • San Bernardino • San Diego  
San Francisco • San José • San Luís Obispo • San Marcos • Sonoma • Stanislaus

We will note that when previous bills were considered by the legislature over the past decade at least, the CSU's most powerful counter argument was the legislature should allow the CSU to address this itself. The CSU appears to have been unable to move on this issue on its own for over a decade. It may need assistance to act.

We encourage the committee to take the most reasonable academic decision and the most practical decision based on the evidence-based demonstrations of Ethnic Studies contributions to the success of all students. We encourage you to support an Ethnic Studies requirement in the university system that prepares the largest cohort of K-12 teachers for the state of California, the California State University System.

Thanking you in advance for your consideration,

The Steering Committee of the CSU Ethnic Studies Council:

Professor Melina Abdullah (CSULA)

Professor Scott Andrews (CSUN)

Professor Teresa Carrillo (SFSU)

Professor Maulana Karenga (CSULB)

Professor Linda España-Maram (CSULB)

Professor Kenneth Monteiro (Coordinator-SFSU)

Professor Boatamo Mosupyoe (CSU Sacramento)

Professor Marcos, Pizarro (SJSU)

Professor Cralg Stone (CSULB)

Note: We do not write representing the administration of the California State University System or its 23 campuses. We write representing the over 200 faculty members from across those campuses who constitute this council.