

A Resolution Honoring José Luis Vargas (Passed by the CSUN Faculty Senate on May 12, 2016)

Whereas José Luis Vargas served with distinction as Director of CSUN's Educational Opportunity Program for 22 years, and served as the Executive Secretary of the Educational Equity Committee, a Standing Committee of the Faculty Senate for over 15 years, and served as a trusted member of the Provost's Council and the Chair of the California State University (CSU) EOP Statewide Directors; and

Whereas he was originally recruited by the founders of CSUN's Educational Opportunity Program (EOP) in 1968, becoming the first person in his family to graduate from college, earning a Bachelor's degree in Sociology in 1974 and a Master's degree in Educational Psychology and Counseling in 1975; and

Whereas he was committed to serving historically low-income students from disadvantaged backgrounds in his numerous commitments across the university, state, and community; and

Whereas he built CSUN's EOP into one of the most respected EOP programs in the CSU system through his tireless devotion to diversity, equity, and access at the University, mentoring and inspiring thousands of students to achieve their goals; and

Whereas he also helped to establish the EOP Transitional Programs including Residential Bridge, Commuter Bridge, Transfer Bridge and FreshStart; the Resilient Scholars Program; and CSUN's DREAM Center; and

Whereas he helped to transform the ways the campus community would perceive EOP students from "at risk" to high-potential, students of promise; and

Whereas he encouraged students to engage in student activism and empowerment practices regarding educational access, defending Ethnic Studies and other culturally responsive education, and using their talents to uplift their communities; and

Whereas students, staff, and faculty describe him as humble, passionate, selfless, and committed to student success; and

Whereas he had a deep respect for underserved students and his legacy will continue to benefit future generations; therefore be it

Resolved: that we honor José Luis in all his roles as campus leader, colleague, friend, mentor, husband, and father; and be it further

Resolved: that the Educational Equity Committee and the Faculty Senate express our profound sorrow over the loss of José Luis Vargas; and be it further

Resolved: that we demonstrate our solidarity with José Luis' vision and commit to continuing his life's work and the original mission of EOP as conceived under his leadership; and be it further

Resolved: that this resolution be entered into the permanent records of the Senate; and be it finally

Resolved: that a copy of this resolution be presented to José Luis' wife, Yvonne, and his son, Damian, in recognition of their support for José Luis' important work at the university and across the state.