

ERFSA-Stanislaus Campus Cares Fundraiser - Treasurer's December 2024 Update

Dear ERFSA members,

I wanted to let you know that between October 1st and November 30th Stan-ERFSA with a 10% participation rate collected \$1100 for the CSU Stanislaus Foundation Campus Cares (Basic Needs) Account. A check in the amount of \$1100 has been delivered to CSU Stanislaus Foundation for the Campus Cares Basic Needs.

You may have read that students at various CSU campuses lack the basic needs of shelter, food, and clothing. Students living in cars as they struggle to finish their degrees is a phenomenon of our time. CSU Stanislaus is by no means exempt, and the CSU Stan Basic Needs Office has been set up to solve this unacceptable condition. ERFSA members would like to help.

Director of CSU Stan Basic Needs, Heather Pearson Villeda, spoke to our September Executive Committee about how her office assists students in need. We learned that during the 2023-24 academic year, about 3500 students received some type of assistance from the Basic Needs services and programs. Of those, 71% were first generation students. Basic Needs services and programs include the Warrior Food Pantry, Food Distribution Boxes, a Clothing Closet, Parenting Kits, a Nutritional Assistance Program, and the CSU Stanislaus Foundation Campus Cares Account which provides funds for food insecurity and emergencies. The office also negotiates for temporary housing, so that students and their children may be safe. Yes, children. Baby food and diapers are well in evidence among other grocery supplies in the Pantry. The Office's work is supported by grants and product/money donations from

individuals and organizations such as Second Harvest and California Faculty Association.

As you know, for the past twenty-three years CSU Stan ERFSA has supported a yearly capital campaign to raise money to fund Graduate Scholarships. This has resulted in scholarships in the amount of several thousand dollars being awarded to graduate students who plan a career teaching at the college level. This year, at the September 27th ERFSA meeting, members decided to put the Graduate Scholarship fund raiser on hiatus and turn to the pressing need of student welfare. Members agreed to raise funds through a 2024-25 capital campaign and make a generous donation to the CSU Stanislaus Campus Cares Foundation Account, in lieu of a capital campaign for a Graduate Scholarship. Stan ERFSA members may still contribute to the CSU Stanislaus Foundation with monies earmarked for the ERFSA Graduate Scholarship, but we will not actively seek donations for the Scholarship Fund this year.

As Treasurer, I have been asked to take charge of the ERFSA-Stanislaus Campus Cares Fundraiser. Every two months between October 2024 and July 2025, I will transfer the money collected by ERFSA to the CSU Stanislaus Campus Cares Foundation Account. With your help we can achieve our goal this year of 100% participation and raising the amount of \$4000 for our students in need.

Please make your checks payable to "CSU Stanislaus ERFSA," and in the memo section write "Campus Cares." You will receive an email confirmation from me of your donation, so please include your email address and send to:

ERFSA-Stanislaus

c/o Tom Abram, Treasurer

3646 Milano Way

Turlock, CA 95382-0475

If you prefer your contribution to be tax deductible, per tax code, make your check payable to CSU Stanislaus Foundation, and in the memo section of your check, write "Campus Cares Account." Please mail your check to:

CSU Stanislaus Foundation

One University Circle

Turlock, CA 95382

If you do send directly to the Foundation, please remember to email me the amount so I can account for all donations made by Stan ERFSA members.

Thanks again for your continued support and participation!

Tom Abram, Treasurer of ERFSA-Stanislaus