

**ASSOCIATED STUDENTS OF COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY
FIFTIETH THIRD SENATE
SESSION: 23rd
DATE: 4/17/2024**

**BILL #5321
El Centro SOMOS Latinx/e Graduation**

DISCLAIMER: A signature to sponsor is not the same as supporting the content of any piece of legislation, it is simply a statement asking for the legislation to be heard.

SPONSORED BY: Enock Monanti, Chair, Diversity Equity and Inclusion Committee, Senator, Black African American Cultural Center; Claire Pickerel, Senator, Warner College of Natural Resources; Mitchell Meyers, Associate Senator, Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences; Fiona Miller, Senator, Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences; Nora Aslan, Chair, Budgetary Affairs Committee, Senator, Pride Resource Center; Lauren Davis, Senator, Women and Gender Advocacy Center; Eveline Rivera, Senator, College of Agricultural Sciences;

WRITTEN BY: Yoseline Rivera, Associate Senator for El Centro; Hailie Chacon, Senator for El Centro; Alicia Barron, Senator for El Centro

ENDORSED BY: Lina Alvarez, Associate Senator, El Centro; Taavi Machado, Senator, Native American Cultural Center; Olivia Friske, Woman's Caucus Chair; Budgetary Affairs committee; Kevin Melchior, Senator, Adult learners and Veteran Services; Frankie Salazar, Senator, Pride Resource Center; Ariadne Athey, Senator, Student Disability Center; Sammy Trout, Chair, Accessibility Caucus, Senator Student Disability Center; Jellicy Luna, Associate Senator, Student Disability Center; Abdu Tabib, Senator, Asian Pacific American Cultural Center; Jorja Whyte, Director of Health; Ben Torres Doxey, CSU student; Theo Reese, Director of Academics; Evan Welch, Director of Housing Security; University Affairs Committee; Diversity, Equity, Inclusion Affairs Committee;

ABSTRACT:

This proposed bill seeks to allocate \$10,000 from the Senate Discretionary Budget to El Centro. These funds will enable El Centro to purchase Serape and Central/South American and Caribbean stoles for their graduation ceremony. Additionally, an extra \$4000 will be allocated and evenly distributed to NACC, APACC, B/AACC, and Pride for their graduation ceremonies.

WHEREAS

At present, Hispanic/Latino students form the largest demographic group at Colorado State

University, apart from white students. In fall 2023, around 4,073 students identified as Hispanic/Latino, with this figure continuing to grow; and,

Term	Fall 2018	Fall 2019	Fall 2020	Fall 2021	Fall 2022	Fall 2023
Ethnicity	Count	Count	Count	Count	Count	Count
Hispanic/Latino	6,727	3,974	4,008	4,014	4,121	4,073
Native American	1,3	1,2	1,4	1,4	1,3	1,3
Black	6,15	5,9	5,5	5,7	5,6	6,1
Asian	7,7	7,7	7,6	7,9	8,1	8,1
Hawaiian/Pac. Islander	8	3,9	3,5	3,8	3,4	3,8
White	1,9,9,6	1,9,8,5	1,9,2,5	1,9,4,0	1,9,3,4	1,9,0,4
Multi-Racial	1,1,0	1,3,1	1,3,0	1,3,5	1,3,4	1,3,7
International	1,9,3	1,8,6	1,5,1	1,3,6	1,3,3	1,4,9
No Response	4,1	3,3	2,5	2,6	2,6	2,5
Total	2,8,6,9	12,8,8,6	2,7,8,3	2,7,9,5	2,7,9,5	2,7,8,3

Applied filters:
 Term is Fall 2023, Fall 2022, Fall 2021, Fall 2020, Fall 2019, or Fall 2018
 Program Type is Primary Degree Majors or Primary Graduate Certificates
 RI (State Funded) is RI Student
 PrimarySort is Ethnicity
 SecondSort is Department
 ThirdSort is None
 FourthSort is None

WHEREAS

Every year, El Centro hosts the SOMOS Graduation event, costing \$22,629.23. This event needs 350 serape stoles at \$24 each, and around 40 Central/South American and Caribbean stoles, for a total of \$10,673.90; and,

WHEREAS

El Centro's budget is \$321,218, with the majority going to staff compensation. This leaves \$13,358 for operating costs, including phone and computer lab expenses, and cultural programs like National Latinx/é Heritage Month and Latinx/é Activism Week, thereby limiting the financial backing for the SOMOS graduation ceremony; and,

WHEREAS

El Centro has historically lacked stable funding to support initiatives like Graduation Stoles. The past ceremonies and stoles relied on various funding sources, such as small donations and contributions from attendees; and,

WHEREAS

We aim to refrain from requesting funding from attendees, as many refrain from not attending these events due to financial barriers of their own; and,

WHEREAS

The purpose of funding the stoles aims to empower the growing Hispanic/Latinx graduating student population, recognizing the profound historical and national significance of the tradition of presenting "Serape-style" stoles to graduates. This tradition, embraced by the Chicano movement, serves as a means for students to express pride in their culture, honor their families' sacrifices, and connect with their ancestors; and,

WHEREAS

In 2020, El Centro introduced the Central/South American and Caribbean stoles for graduates in response to students from these regions seeking a graduation symbol reflecting transnational experiences, the broader Latinx/é diaspora, and a contemporary understanding of Latinidad; and,

WHEREAS

The Sarape stoles will be sourced from a Black, Indigenous, Person of Color (BIPOC)-owned business to promote cultural authenticity and representation, ensuring that the stoles reflect the heritage of the graduating students; and,

WHEREAS

the Central/South American and Caribbean stoles will be sourced from an artist in Guatemala, through a fair-trade agreement with a Latina-owned vendor. This ensures fair compensation for the artisans and helps El Centro navigate post-COVID inflationary pressures affecting the vendor and local weavers.

THEREFORE BE IT HEREBY ENACTED

That the Senate Discretionary Fund allocates \$10,000 to El Centro and \$1,000 for each NACC, APACC, B/AACC, and the Pride Center, for a total of \$14,000; and,

THEREFORE BE IT HEREBY FURTHER ENACTED

The Cultural Resource Center will use these funds to help fund their graduation ceremonies to host or buy items for their graduation events.

THEREFORE BE IT HEREBY FURTHER ENACTED

If the total funds allocated are not used up by June 30, 2024, the remainder returns to the Senate Discretionary Fund; so,

THEREFORE BE IT HEREBY FURTHER ENACTED

That this fund will not be added to the Cultural Center's current fund but shall be a separate fund that does not deduct from financial aid to use.

THEREFORE BE IT HEREBY FURTHER ENACTED

That a copy of this legislation be Forwarded to; Amy Parsons, President of Colorado State University, Tony Frank, Chancellor of the CSU System, Blanche Hughes, CSU Vice President for Student Affairs, Ben Schrader, ASCSU Advisor, Evan Welch, ASCSU Advisor , JoAnn Cornell, Director of the Asian Pacific American Cultural Center, Duan Ruff, Director of the Black/African American Cultural Center, Aaron Escobedo Garmon , Director of El Centro, Maggie Hendrickson, Director of the Pride Resource Center, Tyrone Smith, Director of the

Native American Cultural Center, Justin Dove, Director of the Student Disability Center, Tim Kefalas, Accountant SLiCE, Desirae McCutchen, Accountant ASCSU

PASSAGE: Unanimous

DATE: 4/24/2024

Nicholas Desalvo

PRESIDENT Nick Desalvo

DATE 5-1-24

TAGS: Use this section to place topic "tags," such as Residence Life, Dining Halls, Student Services, Parking, Liberal Arts College, etc.