

BILL 5534 – SOMOS Family & Community Celebration



THE ASSOCIATED STUDENTS OF COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY

17th SESSION OF THE FIFTY-FIFTH SENATE

01/ 21/ 2026

BILL #5534

El Centro SOMOS Family & Community Celebration

NOTICE: *A signature to sponsor means that you only wish for the legislation to be heard; a signature to endorse means that you support the contents and/or actions of this legislation.*

WRITTEN BY: Yoseline Rivera- Rivera, Senator, El Centro, University Affairs Committee Chair, Andrea Flores Pereida, Senator, El Centro

COLLABORATED WITH:

SPONSORED BY: Anicia Candelario, Senator, CVMBS; Jared McGlothlin, Senator, GSC, Budgetary Affairs Committee Chair

ENDORSED BY: Victoria Quesada-Stoner, Senator, College of Natural Sciences, Diversity Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Committee Chair; Liri Sananes, Associate Senator, Student Disability Center; Angel Hernandez, Senator, PRC; Estevan Vega, Senator, College of Natural Sciences; University Affairs Committee

ABSTRACT: *This bill proposes the allocation of \$8,500.00 from the Senate Discretionary Budget to support El Centro's SOMOS Family & Community Celebration. This budget will be allocated to El Centro to cover the cost of securing the LSC ballroom, along with necessary equipment and production expenses for the SOMOS celebration.*

WHEREAS (1),

El Centro has historically supported all students at Colorado State University. As of Spring 2025, approximately 7,075 students have visited and used El Centro's space and resources, with this number continuing to grow; and

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WHEREAS (2),

For years, El Centro has celebrated student success at the end of the academic year, making the SOMOS Celebration an annual tradition. This event has honored thousands of students who have graduated from Colorado State University, and

WHEREAS (3),

El Centro hosts the annual SOMOS family & community celebration event, which costs approximately \$28,225.30. To ensure that students and their families can celebrate this occasion, financial assistance is needed to cover the costs of equipment, personnel, production, and venue rental; and

WHEREAS (4),

El Centro's budget is \$302,000, with the majority going to student salaries and fringe, and full-time staff salaries and fringe. This leaves \$26,000 for operating costs, including phone and computer lab expenses and cultural programs. Including National Latinx/é Heritage Month and programs such as Legacies and Future, thereby limiting the financial backing for the SOMOS family & community celebration; and,

WHEREAS (5),

El Centro has historically lacked stable funding to support initiatives like Graduation Stoles and fully fund venue spaces. The past ceremonies and stoles relied on various funding sources, such as small donations and contributions from attendees (such as grandparents and parents), and

WHEREAS (6),

The estimated cost for this event is as follows:

LSC - Equipment and Furniture	\$1,705.30
LSC - Personnel	\$525.00
LSC – Catering	\$10,660.00

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Room Charge	\$1,075.00
Grand Total	\$13,965.30

and,

WHEREAS (7),

We seek to eliminate the financial burden on attendees, as some students and their families may refrain from attending due to economic constraints; **so,**

THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY ENACTED (1)

That \$8,500.00 from the Senate Discretionary Fund will be allocated to El Centro; so,

THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY ENACTED (2)

That El Centro shall provide an end-of-the-year report to the ASCSU Senate highlighting the event’s success, including number of students as well as family and community members in attendance, while maintaining necessary confidentiality for all students served; and,

THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY FURTHER ENACTED (3)

If the total funds allocated are not used up by June 30, 2026, the remainder returns to the Senate Discretionary Fund; and,

THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY FURTHER ENACTED (4)

This allocation shall remain separate from the Cultural Centers’ existing budgets and shall not impact financial aid resources.; and,

THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY FURTHER ENACTED (5)

That a copy of this legislation be forwarded to Amy Parsons, President, Colorado State University; Tony Frank, Chancellor, CSU System; Marion Underwood, Provost & Executive Vice President, Colorado State University, Blanche Hughes, Vice President, Student Affairs; Kauline

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Cipriani, Vice President for Inclusive Excellence, Office of the President; Mike Ellis, Associate Vice President and Executive Director of the Lory Student Center, Student Affairs; Pamela Norris, Associate Executive Director Engagement and Talent Development, Student Affairs; Ben Schrader, Director, Adult Learner and Veteran Services, ASCSU Advisor; Duan Ruff, Director, Student Leadership Involvement and Community Engagement; Julia Pratt, Assistant Director for Student Government, Student Leadership, Involvement and Community Engagement; Farah Shah, ASCSU/SLiCE Accountant, Student Leadership, Involvement and Community Engagement; Ali Raza, Assistant Director of Involvement, Student Leadership, Involvement and Community Engagement, ASCSU Advisor; Elisa Randazzo, ASCSU Administrative Assistant; Warner College Council; Ag Council; College of Liberal Arts Representative Council; Natural Sciences College Council; College of Health and Human Sciences Dean’s Leadership Council; College of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences College Council; College of Business Dean’s Student Leadership Council; Lisa Chandler, Assistant Director, Adult Learner and Veteran Services; Kathleen Fairfax, Vice Provost, International Affairs, Colorado State University; Chad Hoseth, Assistant Vice Provost, International Affairs, Colorado State University; Greg Wymer, Director, International Student Scholars and Services; Mary Ann Lucero, Executive Director, Academic Advancement Center; Elizabeth Sink, Lead, Multifaith and Belief Initiatives; Gaurav Harshe, Interim Director, Asian Pacific American Cultural Center; John Miller IV, Director, Black/African American Cultural Center; Aaron Escobedo Garmon, Director, El Centro; Maggie Hendrickson, Director, Pride Resource Center; Tyrone Smith, Director, Native American Cultural Center; Imani Lindberg, Interim Director, Survivor Advocacy & Foundational Education Center; Justin Dove, Director, Student Disability Center; Amy Taylor, Senior Director of the Accessibility Center;


PASSAGE AND ENACTMENT OF RESOLUTION/BILL/LEX 55XX
SESSION OF PASSAGE

Yays – Nays – Abstentions

ASCSU SPEAKER OF THE SENATE BROOKELYN REESE

DATE
2/12/2026

Signed by:


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ASCSU PRESIDENT JAKYE NUNLEY

DATE

2/12/2026

Signed by:



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RESOURCES:

Use this section to place any relevant citations and/or resources used in the producing of this legislation.

THAT THIS LEGISLATION SHALL BE FORWARDED TO:

- Amy Parsons**, President of Colorado State University
- Tony Frank**, Chancellor of the Colorado State University System
- Marion Underwood**, Provost and Executive Vice President
- Blanche Hughes**, Vice President of Student Affairs
- Kauline Cipriani**, Vice President for Inclusive Excellence
- Mike Ellis**, Associate Vice President and Executive Director of Lory Student Center
- Pamela Norris**, Associate Executive Director Engagement and Talent Development
- Ben Schrader**, Director of the Adult Learner and Veteran Services, ASCSU Advisor
- Julia Pratt**, Assistant Director for Student Government of Student Leadership, Involvement and Community Engagement
- Farah Shah**, ASCSU/SLiCE Accountant for Student Leadership, Involvement and Community Engagement
- Ali Raza**, Assistant Director of Involvement for Student Leadership, Involvement and Community Engagement, ASCSU Advisor
- Duan Ruff**, Director of Student Leadership Involvement and Community Engagement
- Elisa Randazzo**, ASCSU Administrative Assistant
- Warner College Council**
- Ag Council**
- College of Liberal Arts Representative Council**
- Natural Sciences College Council**
- College of Health and Human Sciences Dean’s Leadership Council**
- College of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences College Council**
- College of Business Dean’s Student Leadership Council**
- Lisa Chandler**, Assistant Director of Adult Learner and Veteran Services
- Kathleen Fairfax**, Vice Provost of International Affairs for Colorado State University
- Chad Hoseth**, Assistant Vice Provost of International Affairs for Colorado State University
- Greg Wymer**, Director of International Student Scholars and Services
- Mary Ann Lucero**, Executive Director of the Academic Advancement Center
- Elizabeth Sink**, Lead of Multifaith and Belief Initiatives

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Gaurav Harshe, Interim Director of the Asian Pacific American Cultural Center

John Miller IV, Director, 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

Imani Lindberg, Interim Director of the Survivor Advocacy & Foundational Education Center

Justin Dove, Director of the Student Disability Center

Amy Taylor, Senior Director of the Accessibility Center

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INTRODUCTION DATE/SESSION:

17th SESSION OF THE FIFTY-FIFTH SENATE
01/ 21/ 2026

ARCHIVE DATE:

02/11/2026

COMMITTEE'S REVIEWED:

University Affairs Committee
Budgetary Affairs Committee

MONETARY? Y/N