

From:

To:

Sent: Wednesday, September 2, 2015

Subject: Returning to CSU Staff Site

InterVarsity staff serving on California State University (CSU) campuses gathered in early August to mark the return to campus and official student organization recognition with prayers of thanksgiving, reflection on the de-recognition process, and preparation for NSO (new student orientation).

Staff also had an opportunity to interact with Kathy Khang who helped lead the meeting. Kathy is in a new role as director of campus access initiatives and is working with Greg Jao, vice president of campus engagement.

The meeting answered questions about moving forward with CSU campus administrators. Information was gathered and ideas discussed aimed at creating better resources for staff who may face similar situations in the future.

Twenty-three of our chapters on nineteen of the 23 CSU campuses were restored to recognized status at the end of the 2014-2015 school year, the fruit of continued engagement with CSU administrators after de-recognition at the beginning of the school year. Though de-recognition posed unique challenges to ministry, staff members overwhelmingly commented on the renewed sense of mission they and their student leaders embraced.

"We just had our Fall Vision Camp and students are more eager than ever to be on campus, to push forward in evangelism, and aim for 700 contacts," said Audrey Puah, team leader at Sacramento State University. "That's with a leadership team of 12 students -- gulp! God, bring more workers!" Audrey noted that de-recognition opened doors to more connections between our staff and campus staff and faculty. Church partners and friends passed on faculty contacts as they were made aware of the situation at CSU campuses.

"I think the de-recognition was a spark of sorts that alerted us to other faculty and staff on this campus," she said. "We are now in the beginning stages of forming a faculty group. Actually, we just had a prayer meeting at our camp where we prayed together for the campus, then faculty blessed the students in their ministry, then students blessed the faculty. It was definitely a highlight of my staff life so far!" Our staff at CSU campuses also reflected on their feelings of frustration and confusion, especially in terms of their relationship to campus administration. "We want staff and student leaders to remember that the administration is not our enemy," Kathy said. "We are in partnership with the university, and the campus is our mission field."

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