



736 F Street  
Arcata CA 95521

*City Manager*  
707-822-5953

*Environmental Services*  
707-822-8184

*Police*  
707-822-2428

*Recreation*  
707-822-7091

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*Community Development*  
707-822-5955

*Finance*  
707-822-5951

*Engineering*  
707-825-2128

*Transportation*  
707-822-3775

March 17, 2021

President Tom Jackson, Jr.  
Humboldt State University  
1 Harpst Street  
Arcata, CA 95521

**Re: Support for Humboldt State University's Proposal to Become a Polytechnic University**

Dear President Jackson,

On behalf of the City of Arcata, I am writing to offer our congratulations and support for your efforts to transform Humboldt State University into the third polytechnic university in the State of California. This would be an enormous benefit to current and future students, the communities of the North Coast, and the entire state.

A polytechnic institution in Northern California would expand opportunity for students and help the state economically. We know that there is strong demand in the workforce for graduates from STEM fields (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) and applied sciences like health and agriculture. Employers are also seeking graduates with hands-on experience, an education grounded in the liberal arts, and a strong understanding of sustainability. As we understand it, these are all important priorities for HSU in seeking to officially become a polytechnic.

Arcata is built on a legacy of Humboldt State's academic and entrepreneurial strength. The City's strong partnership with the University will have new opportunities to grow with the polytechnic designation, leading to improved opportunities for students to obtain critical hands-on experience within the community. The creative and adventurous spirit of Arcata is a major draw to students when choosing their higher educational experience. Humboldt State becoming a polytechnic campus could be a springboard of innovation, building upon the already nationally recognized leadership in sustainability and environmental responsibility on campus and in the community.

Polytechnic universities embrace a "learning by doing" approach to education and deliver a curriculum with broad offerings in natural sciences, applied sciences, technology, and engineering, while also maintaining a strong commitment to liberal arts and professional studies. In so many ways, this describes Humboldt State as we know it today. With the official polytechnic designation, HSU would be well-positioned to build upon many of its strengths,

including hands-on learning and extensive academic offerings in the sciences and natural resources. The University could also reimagine what is vital for a 21st century polytechnic, with the possibility of focusing on areas such as social justice and equity, climate resiliency, traditional ecological knowledge, science in service to society, renewable energy, and more. This forward-thinking approach and educational focus are needed by our region and our world. Because of that, the new designation would help attract students, drive alumni and community support, inspire donations, and enable even greater success in acquiring grants.

Please keep us updated as you seek this important designation, and let us know if we can provide additional perspective or be of assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sofia Pereira', with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

Sofia Pereira, Mayor  
City of Arcata

Cc:

Connie Stewart, Executive Director of Initiatives, Humboldt State University,  
ces54@humboldt.edu

Frank Whitlatch, Vice President for University Advancement, Humboldt State University,  
frank@humboldt.edu