

## **Trustee Chandler's remarks at honorary degree award to Mr. Otomo**

California State University Trustee Carol Chandler prepared the following remarks for a ceremony Dec. 24 in Selma to award an honorary degree from California State University, Fresno to John Hiroshi Otomo.

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It's an honor to represent the California State University trustees on this historic occasion as we begin to see the results of our university's efforts to honor those of our students forced to give up their education so long ago.

We have charged the Chancellor's Office and our campuses with locating about 250 people who may be eligible for honorary degrees under the California Nisei College Diploma Project. Today's will be the first presentation organized by a CSU campus since the trustees approved the program less than three months ago.

Chancellor Charles Reed said it best when we began this project. Internment of Japanese-American citizens, he said, "represents the worst of a nation driven by fear and prejudice. By issuing honorary degrees, we hope to achieve a small right in the face of such grave wrongs."

I look forward to more ceremonies honoring other Fresno State students whose education was disrupted just because of their heritage. I feel personally privileged that this first degree awarded by Fresno State is to someone from my hometown. Mr. Otomo, thank you for all you've done.