

Enoch's Opening Remarks

Good morning everyone — and welcome.

It's really good to see this room filled — students, staff, faculty, community partners, advocates, educators, leaders, neighbors. That mix matters. Accessibility is not the work of one office, one department, or one compliance requirement. It's shared work. It's cultural work. It's community work.

At its heart, accessibility asks a simple but profound question: *Who is this space designed for?* Space can mean physical, intellectual, emotional, and technological. And perhaps even more importantly: *Who might it unintentionally leave out? Who is privileged; Who is marginalized?*

Today is an invitation to sit with those questions together.

Accessibility is often misunderstood as something reactive — something we address after a barrier appears. But what this summit represents is something different. It represents proactive imagination. It represents designing learning environments, workplaces, technologies, and community spaces that anticipate human variability rather than treat it as an exception.

And that shift — from accommodation as afterthought to access as foundation — is powerful.

This summit grew out of conversations across campus about how we move from compliance to culture. How we move from isolated fixes to shared responsibility. The Education and Culture Subcommittee of the Committee for Accessibility and Accommodation Compliance — a group I have the privilege of working with — embraced the idea that awareness must be ongoing, visible, and grounded in dialogue.

So today is not just a series of presentations. It's a space for learning, listening, and connecting. It's a place to make visible both challenges and innovations. It's a chance to explore the many resources available here at Cal Poly Humboldt and throughout our broader community.

I want to extend sincere thanks to our presenters, who are sharing their expertise and lived experience; to those hosting tables and resource spaces; and to the colleagues whose sustained effort made today possible. Events like this do not happen by accident. They happen because people care enough to invest time, energy, and creativity into building something better.

And I want to acknowledge something else: accessibility work is never “finished.” It evolves as technologies evolve. As our student population evolves. As our understanding deepens. The fact that this is our second annual summit speaks to momentum — not a one-time initiative, but an ongoing commitment to learning and doing better together.

Before we begin, I invite each of us to approach today with curiosity and humility. Curiosity about perspectives we may not yet understand. Humility about the ways our systems and

assumptions can unintentionally exclude. And courage — courage to imagine and build environments where every member of our community can participate fully and thrive.

I would ask us here to exercise some patience with today's event schedule. We need a bit of flexibility, so I thank you in advance for your grace.

It is now my honor to welcome Bethany Gilden, our Chief of Staff, who will share remarks about our broader commitment to inclusive excellence and accessibility across our university and the CSU system.