Introducing...

“THE GREAT DEBATE”

The Chico “Great Debate” is an ongoing, cooperative project between the City of Chico and California State University, Chico to create a public space for civil discourse.

Each semester, the Chico “Great Debate” will take a comprehensive look at a public issue that is a “hot topic” in our community.

The goal of the Chico “Great Debate” is to provide voters, legislators and other interested individuals with information and multiple perspectives on an issue. Each semester, scores of CSUC students will conduct research and investigation into both sides of an issue. University course work will include topical debates, speeches and projects. All of this effort culminates in a day of presentations and debates for our community to view and enjoy.

The founders of the Chico “Great Debate” are dedicated to restoring civility, reason, and rhetorical argument into our public forums. Seeking to reinvigorate the public sphere as a healthy site of democratic practice, The Chico “Great Debate” presents contentious issues in an arena that follows orderly rules of speaking and listening. This project aims to “lead by example” and ignite a revived interest in our national tradition of constructive, civil discourse and argument.

The Chico “Great Debate” includes speeches, presentations and debates by university students, followed by an entertaining evening of advanced student debaters and a “main event” in which community stakeholders debate each other. Community stakeholders will have the opportunity to work with Communication Studies faculty and students who will coach them as needed in the rules and strategy of debate. The public is welcome and encouraged to attend this event.

This semester's “Great Debate” topic is....

“The Legalization of Marijuana”

Thursday, April 29, 2010
6:30 p.m.
City Council Chambers

This topic will be of great interest to the public as the issue will, most likely, be an initiative on the November ballot.