

# The Orion

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For Immediate Release: March 1, 2019

## **After the Fire: Lessons Learned for Covering the Next Crisis**

*Chico State student will lead a panel at Midwinter National College Journalism Convention*

LA JOLLA, Calif. — On March 2, 2019, Chico State journalism students are honored to lead a panel at the ACP/CMBAM Midwinter National College Journalism Convention sharing their experience on their coverage of the tragic Camp fire that occurred early November last year. When the deadliest fire in California's history affected the entire Butte County, Chico State journalism leading its student-run newspaper, The Orion, found it their duty to report as diligently and respectfully as possible on behalf of their community, despite the lack of preparation and resource available.

From 2:30 p.m. to 3:20 p.m., The Orion student leaders that reported on the Camp Fire will talk about the strategies they used to timely respond to their local crisis. The natural disaster took lives of many in the community. Reports on the Camp Fire continues as the City of Paradise and Chico are working together in the aftermath of the fire. The Orion reports on the community's effort of trying to piece together the hope for thousands of survivors of the fire.

Discussion at the panel will primarily talk about necessary tasks taken to cover crises. Safety was a priority for The Orion staff and the public; masks with air filters were mandatory gear. Letting the public know about the resources available, evacuation routes and fire containment were shown via social media updates occurring every 15-30 minutes. Newsroom management, cooperation with law enforcement, and other local newspapers were clear procedural duties to guarantee the information reported was valid.

The Orion was fortunate enough to have journalism students working for a future career in the media field be recognized for their news reporting. However, we do acknowledge the fact that the Camp Fire itself is a tragedy that will always be a hardship on the Chico community and other parts of the county. Many lost homes, jobs, friends and family, while some worked hard to save as much as they could, while watching their own in flames. We aim to share the story that makes our community it's own and to remind the public that together we are Butte Strong. The dedication and loss of others will not be forgotten.

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## **About The Orion**

The Orion is an indepent, student-run newspaper of CSU, Chico. Helping students gain experience by providing real-life opportunities and connections producing news for digital and print. We aspire to help our audience think critically by reporting on key issues in the community.