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and Latin heritage; with her uncle and mother well-established in the Central Valley town, Holbert recalls no overt discrimination.

That said, she might not have recognized it. Chico State has expanded her awareness of racial issues—and, unfortunately, Chico has demonstrated racism. Besides the occasional look askance, Holbert relayed her experience in a store self-checkout lane one night when an employee asked if she intended to pay for all her items, then hovered. She left feeling "a bad energy" and that she was profiled.

"Growing up as an Afra-Latina, I didn't feel like I fit into really any box," Holbert, a senior, said by phone. "I didn't fit with brown students, I didn't fit with white students, I was just kind of like this mixed child going through my life and my days, not having a solid group of people I could say, 'Oh, I relate to them culturally and ethnicity-wise.'

"I mean, I relate to people in my community. But it's different coming to Chico, because there are people who are like me.

Bre Holbert, Associated Students president at Chico State, will co-moderate a *How to be an Antiracist* discussion April 21. PHOTO COURTESY OF CHICO STATE



Photo: Alan Sheckter

Kim Jaxon, English professor at Chico State, will co-moderate Ibram X. Kendi's discussion April 21. PHOTO BY JASON HALLEY, COURTESY OF CHICO STATE

Even though this is a more conservative area, the school itself has a wealth of different cultures and perspectives that I identify with."

The closer she is to campus, the more comfortable she feels. That physical proximity coincides with shared ideas—operating within the same spaces of inclusion, for which she advocates not only within Associated Students but also within the College of Agriculture and statewide Cal State Student Association.

"A lot of times, folks who don't come from a diverse or ethnic background or a predominantly marginalized group oftentimes will feel this jump to feel guilty about something that is way bigger than them," she said. "We're so small in the fabric of this issue, all issues related to race and ethnicity, [that] we all have a part in it and a part to change it."

Ramirez agrees. During the Black Lives Matter protests last summer, a man came up and screamed at him, "You need to go back where you're from!" Ramirez replied, "You know, brother, this is where I'm from. I'm Native American." The man said nothing more and walked away.

"I don't know if he was looking to instigate trouble," Ramirez reflected, "but before you open your mouth, know who you're talking to by simple dialogue."

Communication—to bridge rifts that cleave our country—is something he hopes will flow from *How to be an Antiracist*.

"It depends on how many hands that book gets into," Ramirez said. "Right now, with that trial [of Chauvin], and others, it's [looking like racism is] going to keep going on.

"Growing up as a brown man, we were never taught to be racist to anybody," he added. "But then again, a lot of people are embedded by that from generation to generation."