

## Monday's Message – January 28, 2013

Hello, Broncos!

Last week, the CSU Board of Trustees approved a plan to limit the number of units that campuses require of students to earn a degree. Fewer units will reduce educational costs and help students progress toward graduation more quickly.

By fall 2014, most bachelor's degree programs will require a *maximum* of 180 quarter units or 120 semester units. There will be a few exceptions, such as architecture and landscape architecture.

Many of our programs already meet the unit load requirement. For those that do not, we will be carefully adjusting the curriculum. We take great pride in graduating students who are career ready. Our graduates have practical hands-on knowledge, cultural confidence, teamwork experience and leadership training. Our faculty designed the current curriculum to ensure our students have the theoretical and hands-on knowledge they need to make an immediate difference in the workforce. As we adjust the curriculum, we will ensure our future students continue to have the enriching learning experiences they need.

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Speaking of great learning experiences, we have some unique opportunities for the campus community.

First, applications are now being accepted for Stories of Successful Learning this spring. Through projects and presentations, our faculty, staff and students will share their experiences about learning. Learning does not happen exclusively in the classroom. It can sometimes be surprising, messy or fun. This event is an opportunity for us to collect our experiences, share best practices and continue discussions about teaching and learning, assessment and continuous improvement.

Learn more about the event and how to submit an application by visiting the link below.

([www.csupomona.edu/~learningstories](http://www.csupomona.edu/~learningstories)).

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The College of Business Administration is inviting budding entrepreneurs to take part in the Bronco Startup Challenge. Those who accept the challenge have an opportunity to win a part of 8-thousand-dollars in seed money.

A meeting introducing the challenge will be on Thursday, January 31, at noon in the Bronco Student Center's Centaurus Room. Students do not need prototypes or business plans to participate. They just need business ideas that are innovative and scalable. Event organizers will help participants find team members, develop business plans and find mentors.

The Bronco Startup Challenge was made possible by the College of Business Administration, the student entrepreneurship club PolyFounders and professors in the Bronco Entrepreneur Initiative.

Visit PolyCentric online news to learn more. (<http://polycentric.csupomona.edu>)

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In our continuing efforts to help veterans transition from bootstraps to blue books, we are offering a workshop for student veterans on Tuesday, February 5, from noon to 1 p.m. For more information visit the link below. (<http://bit.ly/vet-workshop-2013>)

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Betty and I attended the Department of Theater and Modern Dance's presentation of "The Guys" on Friday and were deeply moved by the work. It personalizes the aftermath of 9/11 as experienced by the captain of a fire company as he prepares to eulogize his fallen comrades. He enlists a former journalist who volunteers to aid in the delicate task. The performance took me back to that terrible time, but it also provided a context for the younger members of the audience to experience the feelings evoked by the horrific event. I want to congratulate the ensemble for a wonderful production.

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For those of you who were able to join us at Pizza with the Presidents last Thursday, I'd like to thank you for your participation. These forums are an excellent opportunity for students to get answers to lingering questions or concerns. They're also a wonderful opportunity for me to get to know our students and hear what has been on their minds.

Based on the questions at this quarter's event, parking and social justice seemed to be top issues. If you missed the event or would like to review summaries of the questions and answers, visit our campus Storify account by following the link at the bottom of your screen (<http://storify.com/calpolypomona>).

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Finally, there have been some changes in the President's Office.

As many of you know, my executive administrative assistant, Sandi Davis, retired after 40 years of devoted service to Cal Poly Pomona in December. I convinced her to stay on as an annuitant until we could identify a replacement. With the departure of Dr. Ron Fremont, I felt that perhaps a Chief of Staff would better be able to fill the void left by Ron and Sandi. I enlisted a long standing colleague, Dr. Gary Means, who had been consulting in the College of the Extended University. Dr. Means recently retired from the Provost position at Georgia Southern University. He also previously served as Dean of Continuing Education at CSU San Marcos after having served as the Dean of the College of Humanities, Art and Social Sciences at Colorado State University-Pueblo. I have asked Dr. Means to work half-time as my Chief of Staff and assist me in solidifying the job description of the position with the intention of conducting a formal search later in the year.

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Have a great week! And go Broncos!