

Monday's Message – February 11, 2013

Hello, Broncos!

While it's been months since voters approved Proposition 30, advocacy on behalf of the CSU and higher education must continue. The governor's current budget proposal may be an improvement over previous years, but higher education is just starting to recover from years of deep cuts.

Last week, I was absent from your screens because Doug Glaeser – our director of governmental affairs – and I spent four days in our nation's capitol. We visited with our state's legislative delegation as well as select congressional members who have been supportive of our efforts in the past.

We also met with leadership at the USDA and its National Institute for Food and Agriculture, the Department of Defense, and the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities.

We focused our efforts on attempting to obtain funding for the Hispanic-Serving Agricultural Colleges and Universities. The group was authorized in 2008, but there has been no appropriation of funds.

Of course, we received a lot of encouragement, but it was pretty clear that concerns about sequestration permeated all of our discussions. These mandatory spending cuts are due to take effect on March 1st. White House representatives say sequestration would mean across-the-board cuts of non-defense programs by 9 percent and defense programs by 13 percent. These cuts would hit medical research and law enforcement alike. You can imagine the tremendous impact it would have on government programs, their employees, and the economy. One positive note, however, is that Pell Grants would be fully funded. The next few weeks will be very interesting in Washington as Congress works to address this complex issue.

On January 29, Cal Poly Pomona was among eight CSU campuses involved in Lobby Day in Sacramento. The event was focused on educating our state leaders about the CSU's hospitality programs as well as the industry's need for our career-ready graduates.

Hospitality is a massive industry in California. It generates nearly 900,000 jobs and more than 6-billion-dollars in state and local taxes. Do you know who trains the leaders in hospitality? You

guessed it: The CSU. In fact, 95 percent of the state's hospitality management graduates come from the CSU, including Cal Poly Pomona's own nationally ranked program.

It is our job to take this message to the Capitol so that when the Legislature and the Governor's Office are deciding the fate of the CSU budget, it is clear to them how the CSU contributes to the state's economy.

I want to thank Collins College Dean Andy Feinstein for leading the CSU Hospitality Management Education Initiative, and I want to thank my fellow delegates as well. Among them were Doug Glaeser and Erin Mascho – the CSU program coordinator -- who helped organize the event along with the CSU's Advocacy and State Relations Office.

February is shaping up to be a month chock-full of fun and intriguing events.

ASI, the Foundation and numerous campus groups have come together to organize Homecoming, an exciting week of activities, beginning today and continuing through Saturday.

People spotted wearing Cal Poly Pomona gear were treated with free Homecoming shirts this afternoon. If you missed your chance, you can still buy one from the Games Room for only 6-dollars.

On Tuesday, a Lunar New Year celebration will be held in University Park at noon. The festivities feature cultural food, performances, crafts and drawings.

Afterward, those looking for a Valentine can head to the Bronco Student Center's Ursa Major for a speed-dating event at 3 p.m.

On Wednesday at 6 p.m., Earth-friendly activities and giveaways will take place at the Residential Suites multipurpose room.

Love will be in the air at University Park on Thursday at noon, where there will be Valentine's Day-themed activities, including a Billy Bronco photo booth.

On Friday, a Homecoming concert and pep rally are scheduled in the Bronco Student Center Ursa Major Suite from 7 to 10 p.m.

The week closes with a bang on Saturday.

Put on your Bronco gear and root for your Cal Poly Pomona teams, starting with baseball. We will host a doubleheader against Cal State San Bernardino at Scolinos Field at 11 a.m. and 2

p.m. It's looking like another good year for Bronco baseball. Under the leadership of Coach Randy Betten, the team has opened its season with 7 straight wins.

After the baseball games, get some free hot dogs and drinks at a tailgate party before our basketball teams take on Cal State Monterey Bay. The women's game begins at 5:30 p.m. in Kellogg Gym. Our nationally ranked men's team tips off at 7:30 p.m.

Greg Kamansky and the Bronco men's basketball team avenged their only loss of the season to Cal State San Bernardino with a victory on Friday. They followed it with another victory at UC San Diego on Saturday. We are awaiting the release of the national polls to see if we have climbed above last week's 4th place ranking.

For more information about Homecoming, visit the university's Facebook page (www.facebook.edu/calpolypomona).

Finally, save Tuesday, February 19 for a conversation with George Takei. His role as Hikaru Sulu in the original "Star Trek" television series made him famous, but that was just the beginning. Since then, he has become widely known as an outspoken activist and popular Facebook personality. Takei will discuss "Social Justice in a Digital World" at 1 p.m. in the Bronco Student Center. The Office of Student Life anticipates a standing-room-only audience, so be sure to come early to find a seat.

Let's make it a great week! Go, Broncos!