

Monday Video Message for Jan. 13, 2014

Good afternoon, everyone!

Last Thursday, Governor Jerry Brown released his projected state budget for 2014-15.

He continued his commitment to the funding plan for the California State University system by, again, including a 5-percent budget increase. The four-year plan began last year and is expected to continue through 2016-17.

This would mean a \$142.2 million increase to the CSU's budget allocation next year.

The agreement comes with an expectation that the CSU continue its efforts to maintain its affordability, increase graduation rates and help improve the transfer of community college students. These are all worthy goals Cal Poly Pomona strives toward each day. With stable funding, we are better able to plan and support student success.

We are grateful for the state's renewed investment in higher education. It will take some time before we recover from the great recession. The proposed budget for 2014-15 is still 16-percent lower than the 2007-08 budget.

In case of an emergency, Cal Poly Pomona uses the Safety Alert System that can send important messages to you through text messages; phone calls to your home, office or cell phone line; email; and desktop notifications on campus-owned computers.

We test the system once each quarter to ensure the system is working and staff members are properly trained. Our next test is scheduled for this Thursday, January 16, at 11 a.m. You will receive brief test messages on your devices at about this time. We can only reach you if you provide up-to-date information. So take some time to review your contact information in BroncoDirect and make any changes.

Each May, we host the Southern California Tasting and Auction, which raises funds for student programs.

In honor of the 75th anniversary of the university, tickets will be available at the special price of \$75 for two. This is an unprecedented offer, so it will only be available through Homecoming on Feb. 7 and 8!

For more information, visit the event web site on your screen.

Also in honor of our 75th anniversary, the university hosted a photo contest. More than 500 photos were submitted capturing our campus beauty and college experience. The top 15 entries are on display in the Bronco Student Center Art Gallery.

I'd like to thank professors Wayne Rowe and Lorena Turner for taking part in judging alongside Public Affairs staff.

This month, the campus can vote for their favorite photos. The top three will each win 50-Dollars in Bronco Bucks. Read PolyCentric online news to learn more.

This weekend, Betty and I attended the Kellogg University Art Gallery's latest exhibit featuring four prominent artists. Congratulations to Michelle Cairella-Fillmore for her exceptional work as gallery curator. We enjoyed the exhibit and highly recommend it.

The campus is closed on January 20 in honor of the Rev. Martin Luther King Junior's birthday.

The next video will be on January 27th.

See you then!