

President's Weekly Video
April 28, 2014

Good afternoon, everyone.

There is excellent news about our sustainability efforts. Cal Poly Pomona has just received a gold rating from the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education.

We are the highest-rated CSU campus in the group's STARS program. Among ALL California universities and colleges, we are third.

The rating measures efforts across campus including transportation, facilities, research, and purchasing. It also includes areas that are not DIRECTLY related to the environment, but are good for the overall health and sustainability of a university. These are areas like community service, diversity, employee training and fair compensation.

The gold rating is a significant improvement over the silver rating we received in 2011. Thanks to a campus-wide commitment as well as the leadership of Professor Kyle Brown -- our chair of the Environmental Sustainability Task Force -- we have expanded sustainability efforts on this campus.

This is an ongoing endeavor that needs everyone's participation. You can help by finding a Rideshare partner, taking public transportation, taking a sustainability-related course or participating in campus initiatives. Caring for our environment should be everyone's responsibility.

Last Friday, our Alumni Association presented nine Broncos with our Distinguished Alumni Award.

This year's group of alumni has attained high levels of success. In their careers, they are leaders and thinkers who are making an impact, from revitalizing Los Angeles to pushing the boundaries of medical research. These individuals also make time to give back to their communities and support their alma mater.

The Alumni Association also presented its first Outstanding Teacher Award to Dr. Margie Jones from The Collins College. The award recognizes an outstanding faculty member who makes a difference in the lives of our students.

Congratulations to this year's award recipients! You make us ALL proud!

Congratulations are also due to Bronco baseball and Coach Randy Betten! The team is headed back to the playoffs after defeating Chico State, 6-4, on Sunday.

The Broncos now boast a 30-13 overall record. They will close out their regular season with a nonconference game on Tuesday afternoon, then head to Stockton for the CCAA Tournament starting on May 8th.

Good luck, Broncos!

A big thank you is due to the university community for doing its part in winning back our "Out for Blood" Challenge trophy from Mt. SAC.

Combining the October and April blood drives, Cal Poly Pomona collected a total of 409 pints, beating Mt. SAC by 52! I'm looking forward to the trophy's return to our campus.

We enjoy an incredibly diverse campus.

While we reflect the diverse L.A. region, our inclusive and safe environment was not conceived out of luck. Instead, it has been built through the thoughtful and concerted efforts of people like you over the decades. We CANNOT take this for granted. Instead, I urge you to continue to build upon this inclusiveness and sense of community.

There are numerous ways to take part this week.

On April 29th, our campus will host two high-impact discussions in the Bronco Student Center. From 1 to 3, a panel of university leaders -- including president emeritus Bob Suzuki – will discuss the unspoken challenges faced by Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders in higher education. From 3 to 5, award-winning writers Andrew Lam and Gary Pak will discuss the impact of war on Vietnamese and Korean communities in the panel on “Asian American Literature.” These events are FREE.

On May 1st, Catherine Lhamon (pronounced LAY-mon), the assistant secretary for civil rights at the U.S. Department of Education will visit Cal Poly Pomona. Our campus was selected for this because of our longstanding work to prevent violence against women. The event is part of a nationwide tour by top Obama administration officials to raise awareness about campus sexual assault. At noon, we will host an event called “Walk a Mile in Her Shoes,” which highlights men’s role in preventing violence. Participants can still register by calling the number below.

[Violence Prevention and Women’s Resource Center, (909) 869-3112]

On May 2nd, we will host Ability Ally Training. Did you know that 1-in-10 college students identify themselves as having a disability? Ability Ally training will empower you to support people with disabilities and promote awareness.

[Access and disability Alliance, www.csupomona.edu/~ada]

Finally, the Office of Student Life and Cultural Centers are preparing their Cultural Celebrations. These events are open to all students at Cal Poly Pomona and

provide a fun, intimate setting to recognize student achievements. To learn more, visit the website below.

[*Cultural Celebrations*, www.csupomona.edu/~commencement/cultural.shtml]

See you next week!