

President's Weekly Video Message

Monday, December 8, 2014

I have enjoyed connecting with the campus community with my weekly video messages. This is my toughest one yet. It's not because there isn't any news. It's difficult because this is my last weekly update. On that note, let's begin ...

The value of diversity and degrees go hand in hand at Cal Poly Pomona.

We are ranked first in the nation in awarding architecture undergraduate degrees to minorities and also finished high in four other categories. "Diverse Issues in Higher Education" magazine also ranked this campus as No. 4 in hospitality management, No. 5 in both agriculture and engineering, and No. 9 in business administration.

This university has been a strong and tireless advocate of expanding access to higher education to students from all backgrounds. Education plays a crucial role in bridging the economic chasm in our society.

This is further affirmation of this university's noble mission.

The Kellogg name has long been associated with Cal Poly Pomona. One of our students has finally made the link to the Kellogg food group.

Haley Smolinski was the first Cal Poly Pomona student to be selected as an intern at the W.K. Kellogg Institute for Food and Nutrition Research. The senior majoring in food science and technology spent the first part of the year at the company's Global Snacks division in Battle Creek, Michigan.

Haley got to dabble in food chemistry, test new recipes for cookies and snacks, and experiment with food flavors.

Kellogg selected another one of our students, Yu Shu Tseng, as a current intern. They are prime examples of "learn by doing" – only in the test kitchen.

Studies show that CSU students pay more than \$1,000 a year for textbooks. That price is high, and our campus has taken an innovative approach to help lower the cost.

The Affordable Learning Initiative helped Cal Poly Pomona students save \$1.8 million in the 2013-14 academic year. Launched in 2012, the initiative relies on the use of e-books, textbook rentals, library reserves and online.

Faculty members and the University Library have been vital players in this program. Keep up the great work!

The Renaissance Scholars will hold their annual toy drive this week to help brighten the holiday season for foster children.

For the last 12 years, our Renaissance Scholars program has provided much-needed stability, financial assistance, mentoring, tutoring, and housing for former foster youth to help ensure their success in college and in life. Our graduates have gone on to earn advanced degrees, and have become educators, counselors, social workers and business owners.

Drop off your toy donation at the BSC any day this week. Your small act of kindness will warm the heart of a foster child.

Staff Council will spread seasonal cheer at its annual Holiday Gathering. Stop by the eighth floor of the CLA Building on Wednesday for appetizers and beverages. Donations of new stuffed animals will be collected for the City of Pomona's "Santa Cop" program.

At the gathering, you'll be able to send a holiday card to military personnel stationed throughout the world. Door prizes will also be awarded.

Come and spend some time with your Cal Poly Pomona family.

Battling muddy terrain, the **men's cross-country** team finished 16th at the NCAA Division II National Championships on Saturday in Louisville, Kentucky. This is the first time in a decade that CPP has made back-to-back appearances in the national championships. The future of the team is bright as a young nucleus returns. Congratulations to all our Bronco runners. You made us proud.

The **men's and women's basketball teams** found their scoring touches during road trips up the coast.

The men's basketball squad cruised by Cal State East Bay on Friday then took down Cal State Monterey Bay the following day. The team has won three of its last four games to improve its record to 5-2.

The **women's basketball team** had little trouble fending off Cal State East Bay on Friday then polished off Cal State Monterey Bay on Saturday. The squad has won four straight games to run its record to 4-2.

Let's keep those winning streaks going.

The **Bronco baseball team** will start the 2015 season against Dixie State on Feb. 6 in Utah. After a five-game road trip, the Broncos will have their home opener at Scolinos Field on Feb. 14. What's better than a diamond on Valentine's Day?

Final exams start today. I know that everyone is burning the midnight oil to study and finish up projects. After you've had a chance to exhale after taking that last exam, enjoy the winter break. Betty and I wish you and your families all the best this holiday season.

Shakespeare wrote that parting is such sweet sorrow. He was absolutely right. It has been an honor and a privilege to be the president of this great institution. In ways big and small, each of you have touched the lives of Betty and me. It is the

people that make this place so special. We've created memories and forged friendships that will last a lifetime. From the bottom of our hearts, thank you.