

Monday Video Message — May 6, 2013

Good afternoon, everyone.

Yesterday, several hundred people from our campus and community helped raise money for students and support programs at the Southern California Tasting and Auction. Participants enjoyed the best of our region's food, wine and beer. They also got a sneak preview of the Poly Trolley, our very own food truck. You are going to love their food offerings. Thanks to the event's organizers in University Advancement, as well as all the volunteers and supporters.

In the coming weeks, our campus will have numerous occasions to come together. These are great opportunities for us to think about current issues pertinent to the university and the broader community.

On **Tuesday and Wednesday**, CSU Chancellor Timothy White will be formally visiting our university. Dr. White started his new position in December and quickly committed to touring each of the 23 campuses in the CSU system. During his visit, he will meet with numerous groups, tour the campus and learn about our strategic plan and initiatives.

Everyone has an opportunity to meet him during an open forum on **Tuesday afternoon** from 2:30 to 3:30 in the Bronco Student Center. Those who can't make it to the open forum will have an opportunity to watch a live stream by following the link on your screen. It will also be available for viewing later.

By now, you've probably heard about a new website look and feel that we will begin rolling out this month. On **May 13**, we plan to launch the first phase of the website redesign, which includes the university home page and heavily used sites. In later phases, we will update individual colleges, departments and organizations.

These new sites are designed to be more intuitive. They were built with an emphasis on the users' needs rather than our university structure. We will also build future sites using a content management system, which will make it easier for departments to update their information.

The campus community is invited to Town Hall meetings to learn more about the website's new features, and the planning and design process.

Sessions will be on **Wednesday, May 8**, at 5 p.m. in the Bronco Student Center, Ursa Major AB, and on **Thursday, May 9**, at noon in the Bronco Student Center's Centaurus Room.

Learn more about the website redesign project at the link below. You'll also get a preview at the end of this video.

Congratulations are in order for the three recipients of the 2013 Provost's Awards for Excellence. These three educators epitomize dedication to their craft and their students.

Professor Laurie Starkey will receive the Provost's Award for Excellence in Teaching. Professor Ernie Simpson will be recognized with the Provost's Award for Excellence in Service. Professor Vilupanur Ravi will receive the Provost's Award for Excellence in Scholarly and Creative Activities.

The three honorees will be recognized at the upcoming commencement ceremonies. This fall, they will present their work and experience at the Provost's Awards Symposium. Read more about their remarkable work on PolyCentric online news.

At commencement this year, we will be celebrating the graduation of thousands of our students. During the College of Letters, Arts and Social Sciences ceremony, we will also recognize music legend Paul Anka with an honorary doctorate.

Paul Anka's hit music has spanned seven decades, including "Diana," "My Way," and Michael Jackson's posthumous "This is It."

Less known is Paul Anka's vast philanthropic work. He has been particularly generous to Cal Poly Pomona. He is the honorary chair of the 150-million-dollar Campaign for Cal Poly Pomona. In 2003 and 2006, he headlined our Founders' Celebrations, which raised more than 560-thousand-dollars for student scholarships, equipment and research. These are just a few examples of his philanthropic efforts.

For his contributions to music and the community, we are pleased to bestow this honorary doctorate upon him.

I want to congratulate our track and field team, including first-year coach Octavious Gillespie-Bennett. Both the men's and women's teams saw great improvements in their records. In addition, numerous Broncos captured individual titles at the CCAA Championships this weekend.

The men's team finished second at the championships, with Vincent Huitt and Tanner Terry earning the top points.

Sophomore Justin Ellerbee won the conference's pole vault event, set a school record, and earned a guaranteed appearance at the NCAA Division II Championships, by reaching a height of 16 feet, 9.5 inches.

Shane Cioni finished first in the discus. And Andrew Roide earned first in the high jump.

For the first time in more than a decade, the women's team finished in the top three at the CCAA Championships.

Senior Angela Garcia led the way with two individual conference titles for the 100 and 200 meter races. She ran personal bests, and now holds the third fastest time in program history for both races. She also won the CCAA Newcomer of the Year award.

Senior Samantha Swanson placed first in the hammer throw.

Fellow senior Jillian Schmidt earned the most points for the Broncos. She won second in the heptathlon and long jump on Friday, and third in the high jump on Saturday. Next weekend, a number of Broncos are putting in their final efforts to qualify for the national meet later this month. Let's root them onto nationals.

Don't forget Webby Awards founder and award-winning filmmaker Tiffany Shlain will be speaking at noon on **May 9**. Details are on PolyCentric.

Have a great week, and Go Broncos!

###