

## Monday's Message – May 17, 2010

Greetings everyone...

I want to start by saying thanks to the many people who wrote to me after last week's announcement. While I understand how relieved many of you felt, no one was more pleased than I. Do not forget that we have a long way to go. The California economy has clearly not turned around. But your collective efforts have given us the opportunity to forestall an unprecedented decision.

There is more positive news – this time from Sacramento. Last Friday brought the release of the Governor's May Revise. As you know, this event is when the governor and our state finance leadership determine whether tax revenue generated from this fiscal year can support the original January proposal. The big news is that Governor Schwarzenegger has held firm on his commitment to higher education, completely supporting the restoration of \$305 million to the CSU's 2010-11 budget. His budget also includes an additional \$60.7 million to increase enrollment something that as you know we have had to reduce significantly.

Now, my mantra of months and months has been the importance of advocacy. Friday's May Revise was not as kind to other state agencies, meaning their advocates will be pressuring members of the state Senate and Assembly. Because our funding is not constitutionally protected, we will have a target on our back. We must maintain our momentum and remind all of our public leaders that support for higher education is a tremendous investment in California.

Last week, the Chancellor's Office released a comprehensive report that details the economic, technological, social and environmental impact of the CSU. It was localized for each campus, so I thought you might enjoy knowing just how important Cal Poly Pomona is. Annual spending related to our campus adds nearly \$320 million to the local economy and more than \$900 million statewide. It generates nearly \$20 million in local taxes and nearly \$60 million statewide. And, of course, it creates jobs, not only for those on campus, but also for vendors and suppliers who contract with us – about 7,500 statewide. Every dollar invested in the California State University system translates to \$5.43 in tax revenue.

How many investments do you know that pay 443 percent? Join with me and keep the pressure on.

One of the real challenges for the CSU has been our inability to work under a common calendar. There are currently six campuses, including ours, that are on the quarter system. The remainder are on semesters, as are virtually every community college in California. The lack of a common calendar makes articulation with community colleges, as well as other CSUs, extremely complicated.

A referral was submitted to the Academic Senate and they determined that an ad hoc committee would need to be appointed to investigate this move but they wanted to be sure that if a decision to convert was reached that there would be funding available to accomplish this. In response to the referral, the senate is beginning some very preliminary conversations on campus regarding a transition to semesters and what that would involve. Cal State L.A. began a similar process last year, so we have an opportunity to learn from its methodology. Several other institutions have made the conversion and information chronicling their experience is also available from the American Association of State Colleges and Universities. The process will be led by the ad hoc committee which will include significant representation from the Academic Senate, along with students and representatives from most divisions. As this process unfolds, I will certainly keep you informed.

Last week we celebrated the 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Cultural Centers. These organizations have provided the university with over 3,900 educational opportunities to over 380,000 students. Their work of increasing cultural awareness and promoting social justice at Cal Poly Pomona is really something to celebrate. Congratulations!

In another really cool announcement: One of our students, a young man named Jacob Curtis, was chosen to earn a Golden Ticket from the Microsoft Corporation. An extremely rare honor, he received an all expense paid trip to their headquarters in Redmond, Washington, where he had unlimited access to their entire research and development operation. After Microsoft got a chance to learn more about Jacob and the quality of our students, the company decided to formally recruit at Cal Poly Pomona. The software giant has traditionally worked with a very small number of universities, so this is another bright reflection on the quality of our graduates.

And congratulations are in order for Ismael Souley and Johnathan Jianu. They are the new respective ASI President and vice president for 2010-11. Let me also extend my thanks and recognition for our outgoing leadership, Richard Liu and Christopher Chen, for their exceptional work on behalf of our students.

Unless something major occurs, you won't hear from me for the next couple of weeks. I will be back for my end of the year message on June 7.

Thanks for listening and take care.