



April 2026

Dear CLASS Colleagues,

Welcome to the second half of spring 2026. Before you know it, it will be May 15 and we'll be watching students cross the Commencement stage! Your presence at Commencement makes the day more meaningful for our graduates and their supporters, so please [RSVP by April 10 that you'll be joining us on the happiest day of the year!](#)

Between Bronco Bound, student presentations, award celebrations, and everything happening in and out of the classroom, this is one of the busiest and most energizing stretches of our year. In addition, this month we welcomed the move of the California State Summer School for the Arts admin team to our campus, as they prepare to launch the program this coming summer here on our campus. The energy and momentum in our college is a reflection of the dedication each of you bring, every single day.

As we head into the last 6 weeks of the semester, please take a minute to review all that is happening – and pay special attention to the important reminders!

There's a lot to be proud of this month. Thank you for being part of it.

Kind regards,

Cami

Reminders/Due Dates

Change to purchasing/reimbursement process. The entire CSU is now using a system called P2P for purchases. If you are purchasing anything that you think you will want to be reimbursed, work with your department ASC to make the purchase. Reimbursements for items not ordered through P2P, not shipped to campus, and/or without prior approval may not be granted. All PND requests for non-travel must be submitted by **May 1, 2026.**

Travel. Concur has been updated and has a lot of new bells and whistles, including P-Card reconciliation. CSU training resources are available on this [CSU website](#) CPP/CLASS resources will be available summer/fall. Any travel that will use PND funds must be submitted into Concur by **April 10, 2026.**

Annual Report. This week, you will receive an email with a personalized link for submitting information for the CLASS Annual Report. **Please submit by May 8, 2026.**

CLASS Committees. Many departments soon will begin staffing College Committees. Committee service is an important means of forging long-lasting professional relationships, learning about how the institution operates, and creating change. I've encouraged our larger departments to consider rotations on these committees, so that our newer colleagues have the opportunities to learn and develop. Please [take a look at the committee descriptions](#) and charges and consider where you can learn and help.

Thank you staff! Department staff are working hard to adjust to the implementation of several new systems for HR and finance at one time, while still supporting registration and end of the year events. They also serve as a constant presence in our hallways, keeping department offices open 8-5, 5 days a week. Be sure to thank them every day, and especially on April 22, Administrative Professionals Day.

Celebrations!

CSU Student Research Competition

Four CLASS students will represent Cal Poly Pomona at the 2026 CSU Student Research Competition, held April 23–25 at San José State University. The student researchers are Amary Corona and Juliett Garcia (Political Science), Ashley Orellana (English) and Maren Riad (Psychology).

Exceptional Levels of Service to Students Award

We are thrilled to announce five CLASS faculty members are recognized with the Exceptional Levels of Service to Students Award: Amalia Llombart (EML), Alex Madva (PHL), Jesse Vallejo (MUS), Rickey Badua (MUS) and Lauren Furey (COM). This award honors faculty who goes above and beyond their normal workload to support student success through impactful mentoring, advising, outreach, inclusive practices, and service. It also recognizes efforts that expand access, support underserved and underrepresented students, and advance high-impact educational experiences across the university. These honorees exemplify the dedication, innovation and care that define CLASS, making meaningful and lasting contributions to our students and campus community. Congratulations!

2025–2026 CLASS Jose Gomez Excellence Awards

It is with great pleasure that we announce the 2025–2026 CLASS Awards. Established by Dr. José A. Gómez, these awards recognize outstanding contributions to teaching, research, creative work, service, advising and student success. A first-generation alumnus, Dr. Gómez created this fund to honor those who embody CSU values and support transformative student experiences. Each recipient will receive a \$1,000 stipend.

The José A. Gómez Faculty Excellence Award

Dr. Anjana Narayan, Sociology

Dr. Kristi Prins, English and Modern Languages

Dr. Olga Griswold, English and Modern Languages

The José A. Gómez Staff Excellence Award

Victoria Mendoza, Communication

The CLASS Outstanding Advisor Award

Dr. Alejandro Morales is recognized for his exceptional service to students as Director of the McNair Scholars Program and as a dedicated mentor. His leadership, commitment to first-generation and underrepresented students, and lasting impact on student success exemplify the spirit of this award. The Outstanding Advisor Award will be presented April 23, 3–5 p.m. in Ursa Major.

Commencement!

CLASS Commencement Ceremonies will be on Friday, May 15, 2026! Faculty presence makes this milestone even more meaningful for our graduates. If you are planning to attend are encouraged to [register](#) by Friday, April 10 to ensure participation.

Ceremony #1 begins at 3 p.m. and includes COM, EML, MUS, PSY and TND. Ceremony #2 begins at 7:30 p.m. and includes ANTH, CRIM, ECON, EWS, GEO, HST, MPA, PHL, PLS, STS and SOC.

Cultural and affinity group commencements are listed on the campus commencement website: <https://www.cpp.edu/commencement/>

As you learn great graduate stories, please share with the college at our [Submit News website](#).

Events and Opportunities

AI Fair and Hackathon | April 16, 2026. The [AI Fair & Hackathon](#) returns to Cal Poly Pomona's Bronco Student Center on Thursday, April 16, 2026. Join fellow CPP students for student club demonstrations, sessions led by industry professionals, and opportunities to connect with technology enthusiasts as we explore *Designing Tomorrow with AI, for Everyone*. The AI Fair & Hackathon at Cal Poly Pomona is a free, ticketed event open to all faculty, staff, students and the public.

CPP Digital Humanities Consortium Fellows | Apply by April 17 (Faculty) and April 27 (Students) The CPP Digital Humanities Consortium (DHC@CPP) is now accepting applications for AY 2026–27 Faculty and Student Fellows. Faculty (lecturers or tenure-track) engaged in Digital Humanities work with students may apply for funding, including a 3 WTU course release or summer research support. Two Student Fellowships are also available for those with DH coursework or club experience at CPP. Apply by April 17 (faculty) or April 27 (students), both by 11:59 p.m. For more information and to apply visit the [DHC@CPP website](#).

Service-Learning/Community-Engaged Learning Faculty Fellows Program | Apply by April 24 The Service-Learning/Community-Engaged Learning Faculty Fellows Program application is now open. This program supports faculty in integrating service-learning into a new or existing course and will select 3–5 fellows from across campus. Tenured, tenure-track and lecturers are eligible to apply. For more information, contact the Center for Community Engagement at (909) 869-4269 or cce@cpp.edu.

Call for Proposals for the CSU's Learning Innovation for Future-Forward Teaching Program | Apply by June 1 The CSU's Learning Innovation for Future-Forward Teaching (LIFT) program is a competitive, one-year funding opportunity supporting faculty-led innovations that embed durable, transferable skills into undergraduate education. Open to CSU faculty across disciplines, LIFT will award approximately 30 grants ranging from \$10,000 to \$30,000. Projects should integrate applied learning, reflection, and real-world connections to help students recognize and articulate skills such as critical thinking, communication, adaptability, and teamwork. Proposals may focus on course-level enhancements or broader program redesigns and should demonstrate potential for scalability across campuses.

Share events on the CLASSEvents@cpp.edu outlook calendar by inviting classevents@cpp.edu!

Kudos

[CSU article](#) “Making History One Glass Ceiling at a Time” features **Violet Palmer ('88)** and **Hilda Solis ('79)**, alongside programs like CPP’s WiSE, empowering future women leaders in STEM as part of its Women’s History Month trailblazers highlight.

The inaugural [Environmental Humanities Symposium](#) was held on Friday March 13, 2026 in the Student Services Building, featuring faculty presentations from three colleges (e.g., CLASS, CEIS, and ENV Design), a keynote speaker from UCSB, and student presentations. **Dewey W. Hall** (EML, Environmental Humanities Initiative) and **Alex Madva** (PHL, California Center for Ethics & Policy), who co-convened the symposium, appreciate the administrators, colleagues, staff, and students who planned, presented, and/or attended the event.

[The New York Times](#) featured CPP communication professor **Andrea Smith**, who examines how dating apps shape perceptions of “sexual market value,” noting how app design can reduce users to commodities based on appearance.

Congratulations to **Dewey W. Hall**, Professor of English, who published "[The Political Ecology of Matter: Marbles, Volcanoes, and Humans](#)" in *Nineteenth-Century Literature in Transition: The 1810s*

[CALÓ News](#) features CPP professor **Álvaro Huerta** reflecting on the legacy of Chicano scholar-activist Rodolfo F. “Rudy” Acuña, whose work, including *Occupied America*, shaped generations and advanced equity in higher education.

[NBC Los Angeles](#) video highlights allegations against César Chávez, prompting renewed debate over his legacy. CPP Associate Professor **Álvaro Huerta** weighs in on potential impacts, as calls grow to reconsider Chávez’s name on public spaces.

[Hutchings Museum Institute](#) article explores how cuneiform evolved from tracking sheep and barley into one of humanity’s earliest writing systems. CPP History Professor Emerita **Amanda Podany** highlights its legacy—from recordkeeping to *The Epic of Gilgamesh*: “like Excel evolving into Shakespeare.”

[Democracy in Question](#) podcast features CPP history professor **Aishwary Kumar**, who examines “neo-democracy,” linking inequality, neoliberalism and systemic harm toward vulnerable groups, with the refugee as its defining subject.

[Crescenta Valley Weekly](#) highlights **Ruki Kennedy ('22, History)**, named assistant varsity volleyball coach at Flintridge Sacred Heart Academy. Kennedy brings collegiate experience competing in NCAA Division II and CCCAA championship tournaments.

[Inland Valley Daily Bulletin](#) highlights CPP baseball's four-game sweep of CSU San Bernardino, with standout performances from **Bryan Richman ('27, political science)**, as well as women's basketball earning an NCAA Division II Tournament at-large bid.

[New York Post](#) features CPP political science professor **Jarred Cuellar**, who critiques racism claims tied to a canceled USC gubernatorial debate, warning the controversy may undermine trust in universities and academic freedom.

Dr. Jill Nemiro recently led a Winter 2026 Intersession study abroad program in the vibrant city of Florence, Italy, known as the birthplace of the Italian Renaissance (one of Europe's richest culturally creative periods). Fifteen CPP students from Psychology and Criminology studied The Psychology of Creativity and experienced site visits, day trips, and class sessions to explore the cultural heritage of Italy in the Arts, Architecture, Performing Arts, and Handicrafts and Cooking.

Congrats to **Dr. Seoun Park** on a recent article in [The Counseling Psychologist](#) exploring how immigrant young adults of color navigate conversations about race with older family members. Drawing on interviews with 27 participants, the study highlights generational dynamics, emotional labor and growth.

[Broadway World](#) featured "The Art of Dreaming: A Landscape of L.A. Voices," with CPP theatre professor **Sayda Trujillo** among the performers. The production showcases original monologues exploring identity, place and art.

Share your news here at the [Submit News website](#).