

Fall Conference Speech 2014

1. Opening and Welcome

Good morning everyone and thank you David for the introduction! I am happy to see all of you here today as we begin a new academic year.

First, I want to thank everyone at Kellogg West and the Farm Store for providing our breakfast, and the Bronco Student Center, MediaVision, Public Affairs and the President's Office for making it possible for us to come together and kick off our 76th year – or as I like to say, our diamond year plus one.

There's another individual who deserves recognition today. She has been a tireless advocate, supporter and cheerleader of our students and this university. She's served in the University Library, on the board for Partners in Education, at the Veterans Resource Center, and is currently leading the All-Steinway School Initiative. Please join me in recognizing my and your first lady, Betty Faye.

People have asked me what I am looking forward to in retirement, since teaching my first university class at Appalachian State University over 40 years ago, I don't think that I can just walk away. I'm sure that I will continue to be involved at some level. And of course, Betty Faye and I are looking forward to spending time with our family and especially our two grandsons, Carter and Riley. Carter is not quite 3 and loves cars, trucks and dinosaurs. Riley is 1 and walking. He's especially skilled at climbing and opening drawers and then climbing into those drawers. I know the boys will keep us plenty busy in retirement. For all of you who have children or grandchildren, I'm sure you can imagine our upcoming adventures!

Serving this institution has been one of the greatest experiences of my life. I have enjoyed getting to know each of you, not just what you do but who you are. And you have responded in kind to me and Betty. I cannot adequately put into words what that has meant to us.

2. Introduce the incoming president

When I arrived in 2003 for my first convocation, I received a warm welcome. It's a moment I will never forget. I am privileged to introduce a distinguished guest today. She is currently the provost and vice

president for academic affairs at CSU Bakersfield. In a few months, you'll know her as president of Cal Poly Pomona. Please join me in welcoming Dr. Soraya Coley.

One of the opportunities to meet Dr. Coley will take place this afternoon. She will be joining Betty and me at today's reception at the Manor House from 4 to 6 p.m. I encourage all of you to attend, introduce yourself and welcome her to the Cal Poly Pomona community.

3. Campaign

We have much to be celebrate today. Six years ago, we embarked on our first comprehensive campaign with a goal of raising \$150 million. It was modeled after Harvard's first campaign, which was conducted during the Great Depression. And their endowment is now over \$32 billion. I think we were equally as ambitious and audacious to launch our first major fundraising campaign in one of the worst recessions in our nation's history. But our mission was clear and our goal was true: A Cal Poly Pomona education transforms lives.

I want to take you back to September 2010, when we publicly announced the Campaign for Cal Poly Pomona.

[VIDEO: THIS IS CAL POLY POMONA]

Over the years, we connected with thousands of people who shared our vision. I want to let you in on a secret. We didn't raise \$150 million. We exceeded it. Thanks to our generous supporters, including many of you here today, we raised over \$160 million! Please direct your attention to the screen again for the next video that will highlight the campaign success.

[VIDEO: WE DID IT!]

This campaign wouldn't have been possible without alumni and friends. There are simply too many to mention here today. Our invaluable partners and leaders have given their time, talent and treasure. They are the finest ambassadors any university could have.

Faculty and staff also played a major role in the campaign. It's especially heartening to receive your donations because you are on the front lines every day, teaching, advising and serving our students. Your support is a tangible endorsement that Cal Poly Pomona is a worthy investment. More important, you've demonstrated your confidence the university, our students, and our future. Last year's faculty and staff campaign was a great success, and we hope to build upon that success this year. In October, our Annual Fund will be sending information about this year's Faculty and Staff Campaign.

Thank you for participating in the campaign and for your support of this university. I truly mean this – WE DID IT!

When we embarked on the campaign, we laid out four goals: To strengthen our ability to provide learn-by-doing opportunities. To prepare students for the changing demands of the workplace. To increase research and scholarship opportunities. And finally, to ensure that a quality college education remains within reach for underrepresented communities. Already, you can see the impacts on campus.

The most visible evidence are the new buildings, upgraded labs and new equipment that enrich our students' daily learning experiences. The **College of Business Administration** has classrooms, meeting rooms and auditoriums that promote discussion and collaboration. Soon, **The Collins College of Hospitality Management** will have a new building entirely funded by private donations, and it will greatly enhance their undergraduate and graduate programs. And, the **W.K. Kellogg Arabian Horse Library** has a beautiful new home that is especially fitting of its storied legacy.

The **Kellogg Distinguished Public Lecture Series** has brought prominent speakers from a variety of fields, such as Nobel Peace Prize winner Rigoberta Menchu Tum, who spoke about diversity, racism and social justice. We also heard from Professor Sir Ian Wilmut, who led a team that produced Dolly the Sheep, the first mammal cloned from an adult stem cell. Other speakers included Annie Leonard, a leader for sustainability awareness, and actress Patricia Arquette, who spoke on environmental efforts in Haiti.

One of the most important campaign successes was raising \$11 million for scholarships, giving more students the opportunity to realize their dream of earning a college degree. A less visible outcome, but no less important, is the addition of \$73 million to our endowment, bringing our endowment total to \$90 million. This fund will generate \$4.3 million this year, and that money will directly support our

students and the university through scholarships, student support services, co-curricular opportunities, new programs, and more. Endowment ensures that the gifts of today will continue to give in years to come, and it allows a university to thrive, even in tough times. We have a ways to go before we catch Harvard, but we're on our way.

Everyone on campus had a role in this campaign, and I especially want to recognize **Acting Vice President Michelle Stoddard**, the entire team in University Advancement, as well as the college deans for working with donors, gathering support and sharing Cal Poly Pomona's story.

4. News and successes

Last year, we celebrated our 75th anniversary. It was a spectacular time to be a Bronco. What made it special were all the people who came together to reflect on their experiences, celebrate the achievements of our community, and acknowledge the contributions of those who have come before us.

I felt tremendous pride from our entire campus, especially during Homecoming weekend when thousands of alumni, students, faculty, staff and their families came to campus. You could see the pride at the athletics hall of fame and the engineering hall of fame events. You could feel the legacy and sense of belonging at the College of Agriculture reunion. The theatre department's "Special K" performance highlighted our rich history. And the fireworks finale perfectly capped off a year of celebrations and reunions.

Our most recent ranking in the **U.S. News & World Report** is another reason to be proud of the direction we're heading. The 2015 college report puts Cal Poly Pomona at No. 4 among public universities in the West. In addition, the College of Engineering's undergraduate program is nationally ranked at No. 23 among master's-level institutions.

Our learn-by-doing approach and quality education make us one of the top universities in the region. When students come to Cal Poly Pomona, they know they'll have the opportunity to work with top-notch faculty and staff who care about their success. They know that they'll receive a well-rounded education and a full college experience.

Another area that we will continue to be a model is in **environmental sustainability**. When we surveyed the university several years ago, we found that the environment is a key topic in a large majority of our programs. As a university, we have the talent, skills and resources to explore innovative ideas, to teach our students to be global citizens, and to help advance sustainable practices in our communities. ASI has created a new **Green Initiative Fund** with \$100,000 to support student organizations that want to implement sustainability projects and promote awareness.

In the next year, under the direction of Dr. Kyle Brown, our campus will monitor our greenhouse gas emissions and make recommendations. In addition, we will look into broader sustainability topics such as transportation and vehicle emissions, water consumption, food production, waste and recycling, and community service.

I want to highlight a few more successes from the past year...

Alumna and former U.S. Secretary of Labor **Hilda Solis** joined the College of Letters, Arts & Social Sciences as a scholar-in-residence. Leading conferences and interacting with students and faculty, Hilda has been a wonderful addition to our campus. Her interactions with students show how deeply she cares about their success. Her presence is an inspiration to us all.

Last January, our hard-working **Rose Float team** brought home the Innovation Award for “Bedtime Buccaneers.” They developed an imaginative way to animate some of the flowers to simulate waves. I’m looking forward to what they have in store for us this year.

The **Model United Nations team** brought home an Outstanding Delegation Award, the highest honor given at its national conference. It was the best performance by Cal Poly Pomona since 2008.

The **theatre department** has been recognized by the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival for its production of “War of the Worlds.” In February, our students performed a scene at the Kennedy Center’s regional event in Los Angeles. What an honor for our theatre students to perform at the festival.

Professor **John Self** became the first faculty member from the Collins College of Hospitality Management to be a Fulbright Scholar. He has been teaching in Helsinki since August and will return at the end of the year.

The College of Engineering offered the university's first MOOC or massive open online course. Professor **Paul Nissenon** taught students around the world the essentials of computer programming. Speaking of engineering, we recently joined the **Advanced Manufacturing Partnership of Southern California Consortium** to help boost the aerospace and defense industries. As a partner, Cal Poly Pomona will receive student support and federally funded research opportunities.

Partnerships are an ongoing effort throughout the university to give our students real-world experiences and to give our faculty opportunities to share their expertise. The **apparel merchandising and management department** is now part of an international manufacturing alliance. This group is pioneering innovative and environmentally friendly techniques in making clothes, and that's happening right next door in Rancho Cucamonga. Also in agriculture, Professor **Shelton Murinda** and a research team have secured a half-million dollar grant. They are studying whether algae can be used to clean polluted water on dairy farms and be fed safely to livestock.

Service-learning is also an important part of our academic program. During our 75th Anniversary, the **Center for Community Engagement** challenged us to reach 75 Acts of Kindness. I'm proud to say that we did more than double our goal. We documented over 150 service learning and volunteer acts. One example is from liberal studies. Students organized and led a leadership conference for **Santana High School** to instill the importance of civic engagement.

In the College of Science, a new program called **Cal-Bridge** will help increase the number of CSU students completing their bachelor's degree and successfully entering a PhD program to study astronomy and related fields.

The ever-popular **Poly Trolley** food truck received two prestigious national awards in the past year. One is from the National Association of College and University Food Services. The food truck also received an Innovative Use of Technology Award from the National Association of College Auxiliary Services. The

awards honor the Poly Trolley's excellence in its menu, technology, sustainability, facility design and marketing.

This year's graduating **Class of 2015** is a special one because of a statewide milestone. The California State University is celebrating 3 million graduates next spring – the most alumni from any public institution in the country. Every CSU campus will be marking this occasion in its own way. Our commencement committee and Alumni Association are developing special plans to honor the **Class of 3 Million**.

I also want to highlight a few upcoming events. If you have some time this quarter, the **Kellogg Art Gallery** is hosting Ink & Clay 40 with pieces by artists from around the country. Also, the new **Huntley Art Gallery** in the University Library is showcasing woodwork of California sculptor Fred Rose.

Construction on the **BRIC** is complete. Students will get a first look at the state-of-the-art facility this week. The facility covers 165,000 square feet over three floors. It features several fitness studios, three gym courts, an indoor track, fitness equipment, an outdoor swimming pool and a 50-foot climbing wall. The official grand opening is on Oct. 8, and I hope everyone can attend and watch campus life take off.

This Saturday, show your Bronco pride and celebrate with us at Cal Poly Pomona Day at the **LA County Fair**. Betty and I will be participating in the Cal Poly Pomona parade, along with students, alumni, family and friends. Be sure to stop by the Wilderness Ridge area, where you'll see a prototype of a log cabin for public parks designed by our architecture students. Best of all, our students, staff and faculty will receive free admission when you show your Bronco ID and a flyer. Go to PolyCentric to download and print the flyer.

Our **student athletes** continue to excel on the field and in the classroom. I'm proud to say that 45 student-athletes were named to the 2013-14 All-Academic team. All 10 teams were represented on the list. It's the seventh year in a row that we've had more than 40 Broncos receive this honor.

As we look forward to the next 75 years, it's fitting that Intercollegiate Athletics is also building its future. I'm excited to unveil a new look for Bronco Athletics. It is bold, modern and magnificent. The new athletics logo will help represent all Broncos of the past, present and future. You'll soon see the

new logo on the basketball court of Kellogg Gym, on athletic uniforms and on T-shirts in the Bronco Bookstore.

I want to recognize everyone in Intercollegiate Athletics for their work on this initiative.

5. Obits

Every year, we come together for Convocation to celebrate and recognize the efforts of our campus community. At the same time, we feel the loss of friends and colleagues who have passed away. Let us take a few moments to remember those who are not here with us today:

[VIDEO: IN MEMORIAM LIST]

- *Roger Blaine Humes, staff member in the College of Engineering*
- *Don Morris, professor emeritus in the Department of Kinesiology & Health Promotion*
- *Janet “Jean” Kellogg, university benefactor and namesake of the W. Keith and Janet Kellogg University Art Gallery and Kellogg Honors College*

6. ASI leadership

We are a campus that values student engagement and contributions, and we have a track record of top-notch student leaders. I am proud to introduce the two individuals who will lead our student body this year. Please join me in welcoming **ASI President James Cox** and **Vice President Louis Harfouche**.

7. New administrators and deans

It is also my pleasure to introduce newly appointed members of the university’s leadership team. Let me welcome a couple of deans who have recently begun their appointments. Leading The Collins College of Hospitality Management, please welcome **Dr. Lea Dopson**. This is a homecoming for Lea, who was a member of the Collins faculty for many years. Her most recent appointment was the chair of the hospitality and tourism management department at the University of North Texas. Leading the College of Agriculture, please welcome **Dr. Mary Holz Clause**, who comes by way of the University of Connecticut. Mary was UConn’s first vice president for economic development and has extensive experience in creating public and private partnerships. I want to thank **Dr. Ed Merritt** in the Collins College for stepping in during this transition, as well as **Dr. Les Young** for his many years of service and leadership in agriculture.

We have three new faces among our vice presidents, although you probably know them very well by now. In January, **Michelle Stoddard** became acting vice president for university advancement. Her leadership has been instrumental in completing our successful comprehensive campaign. Also at the beginning of 2014, we welcomed **Dr. Steven Garcia** as our new vice president for administrative affairs. Steve has served at Claremont Graduate University and Cal State LA, and we welcome his years of leadership, experience and insight. And finally, please recognize **Dr. Rebecca Gutierrez Keeton**, who recently became the acting vice president for student affairs. Rebecca has been a leader on campus for 25 years. Her enthusiasm and service for students is evident in everything she does.

I'm looking forward to beginning a new year together.

8. New faculty and new staff

Today, we begin the academic year with 45 new tenure-track faculty and 164 new staff. In keeping with tradition, all of our new faculty and staff are wearing a nametag and a green ribbon. This is a great way to identify them and personally welcome them to our campus. Please stand and be recognized.

9. Provost award winners

One of the best parts of Convocation is celebrating the great work and achievements of our faculty. The **Provost's Awards for Excellence** recognizes outstanding faculty in the areas of teaching, service, and scholarly and creative activities. Please direct your attention to the screen to learn about this year's distinguished group of individuals.

[VIDEO: Provost Awards 2014]

Let us recognize Trevor Henderson and Esther Tanaka, as well as the teams in MediaVision and Public Affairs for putting this video together.

Celebrating the work of the academy is at the core of this award. The Provost's Awards for Excellence Symposium will be held in December. It is an opportunity to hear from these three outstanding faculty members as they give presentations on their disciplines and different approaches. Details about the event will be announced soon, and I hope you make time to attend.

10. Outstanding advisors

When it comes to making an impact on students, advising plays a critical role. In the next year, we will strengthen advising by adding professionally staffed advising centers in every college. These full-time advisors will help ensure that students receive consistent support as they chart their academic path, make career plans and navigate the university.

With that said, let us meet our Outstanding Advisors for 2014.

[VIDEO: LIST OF ADVISORS]

- *Michele Rash, Animal & Veterinary Sciences, College of Agriculture*
- *Hassan Hefzi, Accounting, College of Business Administration*
- *S. Terri Gomez, Ethic and Women's Studies, College of Education & Integrative Studies*
- *Zekeriya Aliyazicioglu, Electrical and Computer Engineering, College of Engineering*
- *Crystal Yachin Lee, Art, College of Environmental Design*
- *Mary Yu Danico, Psychology and Sociology, College of Letters, Arts & Social Sciences*
- *Cynthia Anderson Sanchez, Biological Sciences, College of Science*
- *Margie F. Jones, Collins College of Hospitality Management*
- *David W. Craig, Career Center, Student Affairs*
- *Brian Joseph E. Pangan, College of Science, Academic Affairs*
- *Engineering Freshman Advising Program*
- *Summer Bridge Academic Advising Seminar*

11. Tenure and promotion

Each year, select university faculty are confirmed by their colleagues to earn the right of tenure, thus becoming lifetime members of the university family. In 2014, 35 individuals received this honor, with some also earning promotion to professor or associate professor. Let's acknowledge them now.

[VIDEO: LIST OF FACULTY]

Receiving Tenure and Promotion to Professor

- *Dragos Andrei, Civil Engineering*
- *Frank Bryant, International Business & Marketing*

- *Melissa Flicker, Art*
- *Mehrdad Haghi, Mechanical Engineering*

Receiving Tenure and Promotion to Associate Professor

- *Wen Cheng, Civil Engineering*
- *Ekaterina Chernobai, Finance, Real Estate & Law*
- *Erika DeJonghe, Psychology & Sociology*
- *Nancy Fan, Accounting*
- *Do-Hyung Kim, Urban & Regional Planning*
- *Weimin Li, Landscape Architecture*
- *Junjun Liu, Biological Sciences*
- *Anjana Narayan, Psychology & Sociology*
- *Stephen Osborn, Geological Sciences*
- *Michael Page, Chemistry*
- *Monica Palomo, Civil Engineering*
- *Felipe Perez, Civil Engineering*
- *David Rice, Accounting*
- *Lise-Helene Smith, English & Foreign Languages*
- *Libo (Alice) Sun, Finance, Real Estate & Law*
- *Nicholas Von Glahn, Psychology & Sociology*

Promotion to Professor

- *Nina Abramzon, Physics*
- *Jeffrey Brown, Collins College of Hospitality Management*
- *Berit Givens, Mathematics & Statistics*
- *Carlos Gonzalez, Management & Human Resources*
- *Kenneth A. Hansen, Kinesiology & Health Promotion*
- *Luis Hoyos, Architecture*
- *Marjorie Jones, Collins College of Hospitality Management*
- *Yachin (Crystal) Lee, Art*
- *Hector Mireles, Physics*
- *Shelton Murinda, Animal & Veterinary Science*
- *Alison Pearlman, Art*

- *Jarmila Polet, Geological Sciences*
- *Amber Rosin, Mathematics & Statistics*
- *Broc Sandelin, Animal & Veterinary Sciences*

Receiving Tenure and Promotion to Librarian

- *Christy Stevens, University Library*

Congratulations to each of you...

12. Outstanding staff

One of my favorite days of the year is Staff Appreciation Day. It's important to acknowledge the breadth and the quality of the work of our staff. We also hear about four individuals who have made significant contributions to the university and who often go out of their way to help students, their departments and the campus. Please join me in honoring them.

[VIDEO: LIST OF OUTSTANDING STAFF]

- *Carol Couchman, Foundation Dining Services*
- *Carol Lee, Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs*
- *Marissa Martinez, Office of the Provost*
- *Adeline Yoshioka, Student Affairs Information & Technology Services.*

13. George P. Hart Award

Each year at fall conference, we announce the recipient of the George P. Hart Award. This award recognizes faculty members who are regarded as role models and leaders on campus and in the community.

Before I introduce the Hart Award recipient, I want to recognize and extend a warm welcome to President Emeritus Bob Suzuki and his wife Agnes. They have served as mentors for today's recipient, and President Suzuki has significantly shaped this university with his visionary leadership.

This year's Hart Award recipient joined Cal Poly Pomona in 1998 and has served as vice chair of the psychology and sociology department. She has participated on numerous boards and committees devoted to enhancing multicultural understanding. She is also the director of the Weglyn Endowed Chair

and a respected expert in Asian American identity and community. She also has served as president of the Association for Asian American Studies.

Please recognize the 2014 Hart Award recipient, **Dr. Mary Yu Danico!**

[SPEAKER: MARY YU DANICO]

14. Title IX

I want to draw your attention to a serious subject that is being discussed on college campuses throughout the country and in the highest levels of our government. In January, President Obama established a White House Task Force to Protect Students from Sexual Assault. It came with a mandate to strengthen federal enforcement efforts and to provide schools with additional tools.

Cal Poly Pomona takes violence and sexual assault very seriously. In fact, our campus was lauded by the Department of Justice and the Department of Education this spring for effectively raising awareness about sexual violence and advocating for campus safety. In response to the task force recommendations and proposed regulations, all colleges and universities are closely evaluating their response to sexual violence.

Cal Poly Pomona will devote more resources to this issue with the hiring of a Title IX director and a deputy director to handle investigations. Let us also begin a campus dialogue to increase awareness. We all have a role in keeping our campus safe, supporting our students and supporting each other. More information about Title IX and violence prevention will be coming to you soon.

15. Commitment to student success

Adding resources for Title IX is one of the many goals this year. There are a number of initiatives that I believe will greatly benefit students.

For incoming students, the College of Engineering launched a new summer program called **Engineering Your Future** to help ease their transition to college. The program primarily served underrepresented and first-generation students. There were 120 new freshmen in the College of Engineering, and more than

half were women. It was sponsored by some notable partners, including Boeing, Lockheed Martin, Northrop Grumman, Union Pacific and Xerox.

For current students, I mentioned earlier how we are strengthening advising in every college. To further help students reach their goal of earning a degree, our campus will implement a pilot program called **Learning in Communities** – also known as LinC. Students in the LinC program will follow a cohort-themed approach in general education. In addition, these learning communities can engage with the campus and extend their academic knowledge by participating in co-curricular activities that are designed and arranged by faculty and student affairs staff.

Planning for **semester conversion** continues to make progress with the goal to change over in Fall 2018. During the summer, committees have taken up a number of issues, including advising, curriculum conversion, enrollment and technology. These discussions will continue throughout the year as the committees look at the best structure to guide students and to make the transition as seamless as possible. This afternoon, there will be several committee presentations about their progress and the curriculum structures in general education and degree programs. I know we are all thinking about these issues, and in particular, how to ensure a smooth transition. I hope you will make time to attend these very important workshops.

16. Construction updates

There are a few high-profile construction projects on the horizon, including a **new parking structure** near iPoly High School. The structure will provide 1,500 parking spaces and is scheduled to be completed by Fall 2016. The new **student services building** is on track for completion in Fall 2018. As a one-stop-shop, the building will enhance our ability to serve students and make it easier for them to find the resources and the people they need. I'm sure you'll be pleased to hear that we do not intend to minimize parking spaces, because our plans call for an underground parking garage.

Innovation Village continues to grow and thrive as businesses and organizations recognize the potential of partnering with Cal Poly Pomona. The CTTI building has two new tenants, which will bring our occupancy to 95 percent – that's the highest on record. You may have heard that one of the new tenants is a brewery. Innovation Brew Works will be a learn-by-doing brewery and laboratory for students and a café for the community.

In addition, I'm pleased to announce that Innovation Village will soon enter Phase 5. We plan to sign leases and construct a three-story building with 123,000 square feet of office space.

I also have an update about the **Lanterman Developmental Center**, which is less than a mile from our campus. The state has identified the center for closure in December, and we have been in discussion with the state regarding the transfer of the property to the university. A final decision has not been reached by the state, but preliminary indications are positive.

17. We are Cal Poly Pomona

Earlier this year, we asked our campus community, alumni, prospective students and our surrounding neighbors about their perceptions of Cal Poly Pomona. The results confirm my long-held beliefs about this campus. Cal Poly Pomona is not just a good university. We are an outstanding university and a destination campus for future students.

Our learn-by-doing approach, quality education and affordable tuition fees make us one of the most desirable universities in the region. And certainly, we have one of the best reputations among CSU campuses. Prospective students know that when they come to Cal Poly Pomona, they have the opportunity to work closely with dedicated faculty members, solve real-world problems and make a difference in their community.

Our faculty do more than teach from a book or lecture in front of a classroom. They engage and challenge our students to think critically and think creatively. At the same time, they provide invaluable mentoring and share their insights with students.

When you put it all together, these one-of-a-kind experiences give our students an edge. Employers recognize that that our graduates are ready to make a difference on Day One.

During our 75th anniversary, I often said that there is no better time to be a Bronco. That pride carries on today. I am excited to share a new project that will showcase our Cal Poly Pomona community. We will feature our outstanding faculty and our exceptional students. Of course, our distinguished alumni will also be at the forefront of this project.

We Are Cal Poly Pomona. We are an outstanding university community. This new website, which launches today, will celebrate the accomplishments of our entire campus community. Personally, I like to call this our bragging page. You can't read through the stories of our faculty and staff or watch videos of inspiring students and not be proud of our community. Alumni will have an additional opportunity to share how they are making a difference in the world. We are literally putting Cal Poly Pomona on the digital map.

18. CPP.edu Domain Change

This academic year, we will transition to a new Internet address. We are moving away from csupomona.edu and adopting cpp.edu. The domain change is a major university initiative implemented by the IT Division, and the transition will touch every part of our campus.

There are multiple reasons for a domain change, and I will share a couple of them. The majority of our campus community and friends call us Cal Poly Pomona, though some of you more formal folks may still use our official name, California State Polytechnic University, Pomona. Over the years, people have wondered why our web address is CSU Pomona when no one calls us by that name. We are in the age of smart phones, tablets and Google Glass, so there are many reasons to update and shorten our web address. There's another side benefit – my thumbs will get more rest typing in CPP.edu!

As I said, the domain change is a complex project for the IT Division. Another area that is touched by this transition is our email. Over the next few months, faculty and staff will be moving to a new email system called Office 365. It's a system that our students currently use, and yes, you can still use Outlook for email, calendars and contacts. Let me share a few benefits of Office 365 that I hope you will appreciate...

- 1 terabyte of Microsoft cloud storage for faculty, staff and students. If you use DropBox, this is Microsoft's version of it. Just imagine the sharing and collaborating you can do using OneDrive for Business.
- We'll be getting Microsoft Office online and mobile apps. You'll be able to edit Word, Excel and PowerPoint documents from a Web browser. Plus, you'll be able to use Office on your iPad, iPhone, Android phone and Windows phone.

- Best of all, everyone will receive 50 gigabytes of cloud email storage! Hopefully, that means most of us won't be getting notifications about our mailbox filling up.

Some of you may be wondering, "What about our business cards and letterhead?" We have developed a new suite of materials that is classic and collegiate, and is also instantly recognizable as Cal Poly Pomona. The new materials carry the cpp.edu domain, but more important, they reflect the strength of our brand. Our Cal Poly Pomona identity is an incredible asset, and that is something we should embrace.

19. Closing

After my message today, we will segue into the Service Awards ceremony. I hope you will stay and celebrate the commitment of our faculty and staff. This afternoon, I look forward to seeing all of you at the reception at the Manor House.

This is my final convocation message, and I feel as energized today as I did when I arrived 11 years ago. I am proud to serve as your president and honored to work alongside the best faculty and staff in higher education. Thank you for your steadfast commitment to our students and to this great university. Thank you for allowing Betty Faye and me to call this beautiful campus home.

Remember everything that we have accomplished over the years and think of all that we can still achieve in our final months together. Always remember who WE are and what WE can do together. We are an **exceptional** university. We provide students with a transformational experience. **We are Cal Poly Pomona!**