

California State Polytechnic University, Pomona
Fall Conference 2012 - Wednesday, September 19

Opening and Welcome

Good morning everyone and thank you, David! Now you need to make sure that you are in your seats and your seatbelts are buckled. Your tray tables must be stowed away and locked, because I am about to make a historic statement. What I am about to say has NEVER EVER been stated in the history of Convocation at Cal Poly Pomona. Are you ready?

Happy Wednesday!

In all seriousness, this is a happy day. In September of 1972, the three women on the screen – Nancy Daugherty, Sandi Davis and Delia Leon were beginning their first year as university employees. I'd like to say that they went to Convocation, but that year it appeared President Robert Kramer delivered his message exclusively to deans, directors and department chairs at Kellogg West. By the way, breakfast was \$1.75 and you could buy your tickets at the door. I don't know everything he said that day, but I can guarantee you one thing: My speech today will be FAR more interesting...

This is a special day for Nancy, Sandi and Delia because they are earning their 40 year pins at the Service Awards ceremony. This is an incredible accomplishment and worthy of a celebration. As you can tell by my full head of dark hair, I was just a small child in 1972. But today I am proud to be part of one of the best legacy events in higher education. I hope you will join me and the leadership of Staff Council later this morning when we recognize all of the honorees.

I can also guarantee that the breakfast we got today was far superior to the \$1.75 model of 1972. As always, I want to say thank our team at Kellogg West, under the culinary leadership of **Jose Rodriguez**, for preparing today's meal. And, a special thanks to **Dan Hostetler** for providing the best orange juice in the land from the Farm Store.

Next month MY first lady will be getting her 30-year pin – as we celebrate our 30th wedding anniversary. I have been happy to share her with you for nine of those years. She never tires of singing your praises. Please join me in recognizing your first lady and mine, Betty Faye. And if anybody wonders what preoccupies our time away from the university, let me direct your attention to the screen. Our grandson, Carter Pate Guyotte, is now seven months old, so if I'm going to have any influence on him, I better get busy. This weekend I'm going to give him a second lesson on how to drive Bronco 1.

I know that all of you are anxiously waiting for the day when my Convocation news on the budget skews more to the positive than the negative. Well you and I both! But keeping you informed, good news or bad, has been among my highest priorities. Almost every week throughout the academic year, I appear on your desktop with a video message that not only addresses what has been happening in Sacramento and the Chancellor's Office, but even more importantly, I share the success stories of our faculty, staff and students. Our approach has been different from many other campuses, and the feedback has been

positive. While nobody likes bad news, everyone seems to appreciate a transparent assessment of our situation, understanding the real challenges we face.

So where do we stand today? Well, not far off from where I left you in June. The budget that was signed by the governor in late June had a few new wrinkles, including a trailer bill that addressed the possibility of buying out the scheduled student tuition increase for this year. But as far as the CSU is concerned, EVERYTHING is predicated on what happens on Tuesday, November 6.

Proposition 30 is the lead initiative on the ballot, and it will have a huge impact on us. If this measure passes, our funding situation will be more solidified than it has been in several years. It will allow us to truly plan on areas ranging from enrollment to instruction to personnel. The passage of Proposition 30 would be a huge win for current and future students. But if it fails, the CSU would receive another \$250 million cut. That equates to roughly \$12 million dollars taken from Cal Poly Pomona.

Today is a call to action. We need everyone, and I mean everyone, to understand the impact of this measure and to vote accordingly. Every faculty member, staff and student, every alumnus, every friend, every parent. Anybody who cares about the future of education in California – from K-12 to the community colleges to our four-year public universities – everyone needs to look closely at Proposition 30 and its impact on the state. Later today, the CSU Board of Trustees will announce the hard outcomes if Proposition 30 fails. One of those could include a five percent midyear increase in student tuition. We need to share those realities with anybody and everybody. Our leadership in ASI will be working hard on the student vote. They are already planning on a polling booth on campus as well as voter registration opportunities. In fact, they are currently staffing a booth in the foyer outside Ursa Major.

There are roughly 450,000 students in the CSU, as well as tens of thousands of faculty and staff. That is a significant voting block. Each of you has the power to impact this election – one way or the other. On November 6, let's hope that everyone on campus is wearing one of those stickers.

On a related note, each of you received a message from the Chancellor's Office this summer offering some draconian predictions, including cuts to compensation.

Now listen to me carefully. I want all of you to relax. Unless something happens beyond my control, I have no reason to believe that we will head down that path. For many years, we have been extremely prudent with our spending. Each of you has shouldered the load while we limited new hires. Our procurement spending is way down. And, of course, we have not received any compensation increase for over five years. The result is that we are prepared for any reasonable scenario. So take a deep breath... smile... and keep up your great work.

That brings my budget message to a close. But let's keep talking about the good stuff.

In the midst of the worst fiscal era since the Great Depression, we continue to make great progress on the \$150 million dollar comprehensive campaign. It remains one of the most important things we are doing for this and future generations of Cal Poly Pomona students. So let me direct your attention to the big screen to find out where we are today in the campaign.

As you can see, we have raised over \$106 MILLION DOLLARS.

The campaign remains a source of pride across campus. One of the things that has made it special are the gifts we have received from retired members of the university community. Last year I shared the story behind the **Alan Felzer Scholarship**, named after the late professor in electronic and computer engineering.

Earlier this year, **Peter Castro**, professor emeritus of biological sciences, signed a \$1.5 million dollar bequest – the largest gift ever to the College of Science – to endow two scholarships, as well as establish an environmental science scholar-in-residence. The funds are designed to inspire environmentally conscious students to pursue research projects that benefit the natural world. The scholar-in-residence program will bring in visiting faculty for teaching and research.

Another great story is **George and Berit Schmitz**. George was a longtime faculty member in plant and soil sciences, dating back to the 1960s. He passed away in 2008, but his widow, Berit, worked with our team in advancement to establish an endowed scholarship honoring George. In addition, the couple planned to leave an additional gift, resulting in a \$400,000 gift from Berit's estate.

These are just three examples of people who are passionate about Cal Poly Pomona and our students. I want to honor and thank the Felzers, Peter Castro, as well as the Schmitz family, for advancing our academic mission.

Let's also not forget our great friends in the community. This week at the CSU Board of Trustees meeting, we presented schematic design plans for a \$10 million building expansion of the **Collins College**. The 15,000-square-foot facility will feature two, two-story buildings and will be Gold LEED Certified or higher. This project will be built exclusively with non-state private funds, thanks to generous gifts from Jim and Carol Collins, Andrew and Peggy Cherng, Collins Alumnus Eugene Park, the Marriott Foundation, and Richard and Mary Alice Frank. We expect to break ground one year from now with a completion target of spring 2015.

I'd also like to share that construction has started on the new Bronco Recreation and Intramural Complex, which is expected to be open in the fall of 2014. The new facility will encompass 120,000 square feet and include basketball and racquetball courts, a rock climbing wall, an outdoor swimming pool as well as an indoor jogging track. It will also provide students more than 200 employment and internship opportunities and is on track – no pun intended – to be a high-efficiency, LEED Gold-certified facility.

The new BRIC is completely funded by the Bronco Student Center fee, but students won't pay anything additional until it's open for business.

How many of you were at Convocation four years ago? Raise your hands! Well if you were there, you certainly remember this amazing moment.

Well, Kim was quite prophetic that day. As you've certainly heard, she made Olympic history last month in London, winning a gold medal in the women's skeet shooting competition. Her record-setting performance made her the **FIRST AMERICAN TO WIN INDIVIDUAL MEDALS IN FIVE CONSECUTIVE OLYMPICS**.

Kim missed only **ONE OF 100 SHOTS**, tying a world record and setting the Olympic mark.

And the gun that got her the gold? You guessed it, the very one we presented to her four years ago! I spoke with Kim in mid-August after she got back from England, and she wanted me to share two things. The first is that she is just two courses shy of her degree in food marketing and plans on enrolling this quarter. And the other is how she values the love and support that Cal Poly Pomona has extended to her through this journey and hopes to be on campus very soon.

Speaking of success stories, let me now segue to the university's highest priority – the Graduation Initiative. I want to be clear that our goal is not merely to move students quickly to graduation, but to ensure student learning and success. I am pleased to say that the steps we have taken are bearing fruit.

One way to help ensure success is to understand which students are having difficulty and the source of that difficulty. We have a powerful new tool to do so: the Student Success Dashboard. This user-friendly database allows us to identify patterns of performance and to then act on those patterns. I encourage you to visit the Dashboard to get a picture of how well your department is serving your students.

The Graduation Initiative implemented two projects this past academic year to increase student success. Dora Lee and Rose Kukla in Student Affairs launched myBAR, a record of students' club memberships, leadership roles, campus employment and other on-campus activities. Students can use this "co-curricular transcript" to gain an advantage for internships, graduate schools, and jobs while advisors can use it to evaluate student engagement. To improve students' progress in the classroom, academic departments were invited to explore ways to boost student performance without sacrificing standards. I want to thank Steve McCauley in physics and astronomy, Chris Chen in mechanical engineering, and Zekeriya Aliyazicioglu in electrical and computer engineering, and members of their departments for critically assessing how to improve their students' success in so-called bottleneck courses. This fall, these departments will apply what they have learned and will share their findings with the university community.

As you can see, the Graduation Initiative is truly moving forward. By analyzing and acting on data, by fostering student engagement and by providing superb teaching and advising, we can significantly improve student success, but we need the entire university community – students, staff and faculty – to participate in this most significant endeavor.

In the coming year, Enrollment Services together with the Advising Task Force will set up an Early Alert System to identify and contact students who are at risk academically. A committee of faculty, staff and students led by Dale Turner of philosophy is exploring the idea of learning communities to increase students' academic and social connection with the campus. The committee that led the Year of Advising is analyzing the comments it received during numerous meetings with groups on campus and will soon

share its findings and recommendations. All of these efforts will need your ideas, your input, your participation. So please take the time to check out the Graduation Initiative website, share your ideas and join in the process. It truly is a team effort.

Last March, the **College of Engineering** hosted the Pacific Southwest Conference and Competition. The event included about 1,000 civil engineering students from 18 universities in Central and Southern California, southern Nevada, Arizona and Hawaii. Our students were stellar, placing first in this regional competition and later first nationally.

In January, we dedicated our **engineering wind tunnel complex**. Supported by more than \$3.5 million dollars of external funding, this instrument is a major asset for teaching and research in the college.

Our cyber defense program in the **College of Business Administration** received a significant boost in May. We received a gift of nearly \$350,000 from Southern California Edison, World Wide Technology and Cisco to establish the SCE Virtual Information Assurance Laboratory. CIS Professor Dan Manson's cyber team also delivered in the field, capturing its fourth consecutive Western Regional Collegiate Cyber Defense Championship in March.

Faculty in the **College of Science** were awarded almost \$5 million in nationally competitive grants, and published 75 peer-reviewed papers, including two in the prestigious journal *Nature*. In addition, demonstrating the teacher-scholar model, students in science were authors on 35 peer-reviewed papers and 128 other publications.

The **College of Environmental Design** received a marvelous gift from an alumna to literally advance the college. This past year, architecture alumna Juliana Terian, co-founder of Nouvelle View and the former chair of the Rallye Automotive Group, pledged \$2.5 million to ENV. But she also made another remarkable donation, which will produce a new biannual magazine for the ENV community as well as develop a new web presence. The first edition of LINK magazine, expected to be released in early November, will help elevate the work of our faculty, alumni and students in the design fields, creating a richly deserved national presence for our programs.

Dr. Iris Levine, professor and chair of the department of music, won the Women in Theatre's Red Carpet Award for distinguished service to the Theatrical Arts in the Greater Los Angeles Community. This award went to Dr. Levine as co-founder and artistic director of Vox Femina Los Angeles, a woman's choral group which gives voice to a myriad of women's issues world-wide.

Last month, the world watched as the NASA rover, **Curiosity**, landed on Mars. The nearby Jet Propulsion Laboratory was a major player in this historic project. Of the 17 CSU alumni working on the project at JPL, almost half were Cal Poly Pomona graduates. The engineers and scientists involved had a variety of roles in the effort, which earned the team a call from President Barack Obama.

The Bronco eight included electrical engineer **Ekko Burt**, software engineers **Quy Ho** and **Michael Cayanan**, integration and test engineer **Jose Guzman**, design engineer **Alfred Khashaki**, senior

mechanical engineer **Ted Iskenderian**, EDL Activity Lead **Martin Greco** and mission planner **Peter Xaypraseuth**.

When I arrived on campus ten years ago, I was in the market for a new car. After driving on South Campus Drive, I thought about buying a tank. But not anymore. Over the summer we have seen a complete renovation to South Campus, all the way from Temple to Ridgeway. While the asphalt was hot, they also applied a new surface on Temple Avenue, from Valley to University Avenue. What a change!

Our team in Facilities Management worked closely with the City of Pomona and other public agencies to make this happen at NO COST to Cal Poly Pomona. I know I speak for suspension systems across campus when I say thank you.

Speaking of construction, two high-profile entities will get a facelift this year. Not a building or facility, but the university logo and web presence. These are two separate initiatives that are running on parallel tracks under the stewardship of our communication professionals and web teams in I&IT.

Our current university logo was developed in the early 1990s with a direct link to a certain building on campus. See if you can guess which one?

Since the future of that building is less than bright, it's only appropriate that we develop a new campus image that better represents our community. We engaged a talented group of students in our art program, under the leadership of Professor Babette Mayor, to develop some models. Over the summer, those ideas were vetted by a number of constituents, including alumni, faculty, students and even the local community. A lot of work remains, but we expect to introduce our new logo late in the year.

The new website will be the outcome of a process that actually began last winter, when the IT Governance Web Committee began work on a usability analysis of our home page and other high-profile sites. This was done from the perspectives of current and future students. You see, students, especially prospective students, are the single highest priority when it comes to the web.

Josh Keller in The Chronicle of Higher Education cites this startling statistic: "A quarter of prospective students decide not to apply to a college because of a bad experience on the college's website."

We are now moving forward on a site redesign that will allow for a campus-wide content management system. The first phase will include the home page and those sites with high student demand, including financial aid, admissions and the registrar.

This project will be done systematically, so don't expect every site on campus to change overnight. But we are going to get there. A university with the national prestige of Cal Poly Pomona deserves a stellar web presence. I look forward to sharing news of the progress in the months ahead.

The Cal Poly Pomona Foundation will introduce Qdoba Mexican Grill to the Bronco Student Center this October.

Also, the completion of the College of Business Administration complex is accompanied by the new Einstein Bros Bagels and Pony Express.

One of the real strengths of the university is our stellar group of student athletes. They win on the playing field and they are also stars in the classroom. Four teams had cumulative grade-point averages north of 3.0. Cross-country athletes **Tiffany Dinh** and **Diana Zapata**, women's basketball standouts **Rosslyn Beard** and **Megan Ford**, **Clark Selters** from men's cross country, and **Michelle Nava** from the women's soccer team all earned Academic All-America honors.

And five student athletes were named to their respective national All-America teams, including **Tiffany Dinh**, **Megan Ford**, **Luis Gonzalez** in men's soccer, **Geoff Broussard** in baseball and **Jacob Deavers** in men's track and field.

We continue to make great strides in contracts and grants. The total grant and contract expenditures exceeded \$13 million dollars. Of special note was a three-year, \$1.5 million grant renewal for stem cell education and research from the California Institute for Regenerative Medicine. Building on a previous grant, the award will increase opportunities for both science and non-science majors to learn about stem cells in their coursework.

The Getty Foundation also awarded a \$140,000 grant to the College of Environmental Design to fund a faculty/student team to plan and prepare an exhibit on the postwar house in Southern California.

At the end of the day, we are a learning-centered, student-focused university. And our primary constituents have faced an onslaught of rising costs almost each and every year. While we don't control tuition, we have been asking how we can use technology to offset some costs.

Cal Poly Pomona continues to offer innovative and affordable course material options. Our campus has two exciting new programs featuring digital textbooks for the fall quarter. As part of the CSU Rent Digital program, the Bronco Bookstore is offering students over 400 titles at 60% or more off the new book price when they rent e-book versions.

I am proud to say that Cal Poly Pomona is one of 25 universities across the country participating in an e-book pilot program that will supply up to 800 students with e-books this year. This is in collaboration with two nonprofit organizations, Educause and Internet2. Rather than purchasing the book, students enrolled in participating classes will have the e-book automatically loaded into their Blackboard class site.

Through this pilot program, the beta-students will receive free e-books. We will evaluate the program over the course of the year to determine if a campus site license is appropriate.

Since my arrival, we have spent a portion of Convocation celebrating and recognizing the efforts of our faculty, staff and students. But every year we feel the loss of friends and colleagues who passed away. Let's take a few moments as we share the name and face of a member of our family who will not be with us today:

Greg Carr – Landscape Services

Our educational model truly values the input and contributions of students. I am proud to introduce the two individuals who will lead our student body this academic year. Please join me in welcoming ASI President **Chris Osuala** and Vice President **Christine Hall**.

It is also my pleasure to introduce new or newly appointed members of our leadership team. Let me welcome a couple of deans who have recently begun their appointments. In the College of Science would you please welcome **Dr. Brian Jersky**. Brian joins the university family after having served on the faculty of Macquarie University in Sydney, Australia. And in the College of the Extended University, I am pleased to introduce **Dr. Howard Evans**. Most recently, Howard served as director of academic development and research at the International Education Management in San Diego. On that note, I also want to thank **Mandayam Srinivas** in science and **Jerry Chesser** in the CEU for their stellar leadership during these transitions.

We had expected to have a new dean named for the College of Letters, Arts and Social Sciences, but that search process will continue this year. Interim dean **Sharon Hilles** has agreed to stay at the helm for this coming year. Thank you, Sharon.

And finally, an additional vice president will be joining the leadership team. Unfortunately it's President Tomas Morales' team at Cal State San Bernardino, as **Dr. Ron Fremont** assumes the role of Vice President for Advancement next month. Ron has been in charge of Fall Conference, Pizza with the Presidents and numerous other events for the entire time that I have been here. His fingerprints are all over this campus in terms of his contributions, I wish him all the best in his new role. He will be missed.

Today, we begin the academic year with **32 new faculty** and **17 new staff**. As is our practice, all of our new faculty and staff have a nametag as well as a green ribbon under their Fall Conference pin. This is a great way to identify each of them and personally welcome them to campus. Ladies and gentlemen, would you please stand and be recognized.

For me, the best part of Convocation is the opportunity to celebrate the great work and accomplishments of our faculty and staff. In June, Provost denBoer introduced the 2012 class of the Provost's Awards, designed to recognize outstanding faculty accomplishments in the areas of teaching, service, and scholarly and creative activities. To learn more about these three distinguished members of the academy, let me direct your attention to the screen.

(PROVOST AWARD VIDEO)

I want to recognize Trevor Henderson, along with the teams in public affairs and MediaVision, for pulling this video together...

Celebrating the work of the academy is at the core of this honor. On Thursday afternoon, October 25, we will hold a reception for these three distinguished faculty members. Details will be forthcoming, but I hope you hold the date on your calendar.

I spoke earlier about the Graduation Initiative. When it comes to turning our students into alumni, few things have a greater impact than the quality of advisement. I am always proud to recognize those individuals that have been honored with the title of Outstanding Advisor. Here are our 2012 honorees:

The **Outstanding Advisors for 2011-12.**

- **Nancy Merlino**, Food Marketing & Agribusiness Management, College of Agriculture
- **Meihua Koo**, Accounting, College of Business Administration
- **Edward Merritt**, Collins College of Hospitality Management
- **Anita Jain**, Ethnic & Women's Studies, College of Education & Integrative Studies
- **Massoud Moussavi**, Engineering Technology, College of Engineering
- **Melissa Flicker**, Art, College of Environmental Design
- **Edward Rocklin**, English & Foreign Languages, College of Letters, Arts & Social Sciences
- **Pamela Sperry**, Biological Sciences, College of Science
- **Sarah Turnbull**, Student Services, College of Science
- **Maria Rivera-Duncan**, Graduate Prep. & Special Population, Student Support & Equity Programs

And the Outstanding Advising Program Awardee is:

- **Credential Services Office**, College of Education & Integrative Studies

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 2012, 27 individuals received this honor, with some also earning promotion to professor or associate professor. Let's acknowledge them now

Receiving tenure and promotion to professor:

- **Dr. William Kitch** – Civil Engineering
- **Dr. Norali Pernalete** – Engineering Technology

Receiving tenure and promotion to associate professor:

- **Dr. Gregory Carlton** – Computer Information Systems
- **Dr. Kristen Conway-Gómez** – Geography and Anthropology
- **Dr. Liam Corley** – English and Foreign Languages
- **Dr. Kent Dickson** – English and Foreign Languages
- **Dr. Kevin Farmer** – Management & Human Resources
- **Dr. Hend Gilli-Elewy** – Interdisciplinary General Education
- **Dr. Jill Hargis** – Political Science
- **Dr. Jing Hu** – International Business & Marketing

- **Dr. Myong Jae Lee** – Hospitality Management
- **Raymond Kampf** – Art
- **Dr. Meihua Koo** – Accounting
- **Alyssa Lang** – Art
- **Dr. A. Kristopher Lappin** – Biological Sciences
- **Dr. Eddie Mao** – Hospitality Management
- **Dr. Georgia Mickey** – History
- **Dr. Susan Mulley** – Landscape Architecture
- **Dr. Nadia Shpachenko-Gottesman** – Music
- **Dr. Alexander Small** – Physics & Astronomy
- **Dr. Daisy Tang** – Computer Science
- **Dr. Ángel Valdés** – Biological Sciences
- **Charles Julian White** – Theatre & New Dance
- **Dr. Anne Wohlcke** – History
- **Dr. Eva Xu** – Technology and Operations Management
- **Dr. Wenge Zhu** – Technology and Operations Management

Receiving tenure:

- **Dr. Jascha Polet** – Geological Sciences

Congratulations to each of you.....

One of my favorite days of the year is Staff Appreciation Day. Not only does it give us a chance to honor all staff, but we also get to hear about four special individuals and their extraordinary impact on our students and their departments. It's very humbling when you learn how these people have dedicated their lives to Cal Poly Pomona. Join me in saluting the **2011-12 Outstanding Staff**.

Outstanding Staff

- **Jorge Bonilla**, Division of Student Affairs – Information & Technology Services
- **Sonia Campos**, Intercollegiate Athletics
- **Kevin Malone**, College of Education & Integrative Studies
- **Jesse Quiroz**, Facilities Management

Last year, I spent some time in this speech addressing emergency preparedness. For a number of years we have relied on our **Safety Alert system** to alert you in the event of an emergency. A special task force was created to review our emergency communication protocol.

Let me direct your attention to the very bold image on the screen above. This is AlertUs, a new protocol by which we can pop an emergency message on to every desktop computer on campus. Every office, every classroom and every lab computer. We conducted a pilot study in May and found that the desktop message can arrive faster than campus phones or even email.

And here's the part that made Ed Barnes happy. The ENTIRE software package was donated to the university, including a lifetime of patches and upgrades. As I speak, our team in I&IT is working on getting this installed on every possible machine. We expect to be done in the coming weeks.

I am now proud to announce the 16th recipient of the **George P. Hart Award**. The Hart Award recognizes faculty members who are regarded as role models and leaders, on campus and in the community.

Our 2012 honoree has taught for 25 years at the university, establishing her as a campus leader of many talents. On the department level, she served as chair and graduate coordinator, overseeing significant growth of the program and major restructuring of the undergraduate and graduate majors. On the college level, she served as a chair of the RTP Committee and the first College Assessment Committee. She has been an Academic Senator, serving on the Executive Committee and the Academic Affairs Committee and chairing the Faculty Affairs Committee. Our recipient was also the faculty co-chair of the very first University Budget Committee.

She also champions justice and welcomes challenges, having taught a wide range of graduate and undergraduate economics classes. Female and underrepresented students have found her to be an advocate, and she has devoted an extraordinary amount of time as a mentor for junior faculty.

What is also unusual is that she cannot be here today, but technology is a marvelous thing. Let me direct your attention to the screen and our live feed from our bureau office at Saint Basil's Cathedral in the heart of downtown Moscow. Please welcome the 2012 George P. Hart award winner, **Dr. Maureen Burton**. Congratulations Maureen!

(MAUREEN BURTON VIDEO)

In June of 2011, we announced the inaugural grant recipients of the Kellogg Legacy Project Endowment. A direct outcome of the \$42 million gift from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, the endowment is designed to strengthen student success programs, improve support for faculty teaching and scholarly innovation, and expand relations with our external communities. Our intent is to distribute earnings from the endowment and make annual awards to projects that reflect the spirit and passion of Mr. Kellogg and the Foundation.

But in 2012, endowment earnings were negatively impacted by the performance of Wall Street. The university has a fiduciary responsibility to maintain the value of the endowment and ensure sustainability. As such, we elected to suspend funding of new programs and focus resources on the multi-year proposals that were approved last year. We did receive the next \$8 million installment and hope to award funding in the coming year.

The first year allowed for 25 unique programs to receive funding. I want to take a few moments and celebrate the outcomes of a handful of those that made remarkable progress.

- The **Parent Institute for Quality Education** graduated 830 economically disadvantaged and underserved parents from its Parent Engagement in Education Program. This has significantly enhanced the academic achievement of more than 2,000 at-risk students in the San Gabriel, Pomona and Chino Valley areas.
- The **African American and Native American Student Success Initiatives** continue to enhance the diversity of our student body and the educational experience of all students by increasing the number of African American and Native American students.
- Support for the **Boots to Broncos Veteran Transition** has allowed us to create a veteran's resource center. The articulation of military training and experience is a complex matter. The center will allow for a greater focus on this and other issues relating to the reintegration of veterans into the academic community. They certainly deserve it.
- We had a phenomenal year with public speakers, including national personalities such as Angela Davis, Cornel West, Temple Grandin and Richard Saul Wurman. The **Kellogg Distinguished Public Lecture Series** offered two unique presentations including National Academy of Sciences member Dr. Roger Beachy, and Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Isabel Wilkerson. All of the appearances were put online for public viewing.

I want to congratulate the ongoing efforts of everyone involved with the Kellogg Legacy Project, and I look forward to sharing new outcomes throughout the course of the academic year.

Last year at this time, I launched a campus dialogue focused on what teaching will look like in the coming decades and whether we are ready for that challenge. This led to a series of events and conversations, ones that included national experts on teaching and technology, as well as the inventive practices of our own faculty. The capstone event occurred last April with the inaugural PolyTeach symposium. More than 150 faculty and staff took part in this conference, dedicated to the expanding use of technology in learning.

The highlights included presentations by seven of our innovative faculty members on teaching practices ranging from the use of Skype to social media to digital animation. It's the type of dialogue that must continue, and I am proud of the work of everyone who made this possible.

We are going to keep this train on the track. The Poly Teach committee, under the leadership of Dean Michael Woo, is planning another major spring event. In addition, the Kellogg Distinguished Public Lecture Series will host educator and entrepreneur **Salman Khan** on Tuesday, November 13, right here in Ursa Major.

For those of you unfamiliar with Mr. Khan, he is the founder of the Khan Academy, a nonprofit with the mission of providing free, high-quality education to anyone, anywhere in the world. The Academy is rethinking the world of education, with more than 3,000 instructional videos, 300 exercises, and 3.7 million unique users per month. This is an incredible opportunity to hear from someone on the forefront of this national and international movement.

As you know, we are doing things a little differently this week. Instead of hosting a get-together later at the Manor House, Betty and I invite you to join Dean Richard Lapidus and the College of Business Administration community, as well as donors and alumni, for a special event this Friday at 3 p.m. Together, we will host the dedication celebration for the college's beautiful new complex.

After I am done this morning, we will segue into the Service Awards ceremony beginning at 10 a.m. Everyone needs to stick around just to find out what they are going to say about Sandi.

And this Saturday you can show your Bronco pride and celebrate Cal Poly Pomona Day at the Los Angeles County Fair. Last year, we had more participants on our day at the fair than all of the other universities combined. Students, faculty and staff will receive free admission when they show their Bronco ID card and a printable coupon. Just visit polycentric for more details.

A year from now, we will begin our 75th anniversary year, one of the most significant milestones a university can experience. Teams from across campus have been preparing for what will be a one-of-a-kind celebration of our academic mission, spread across the entire 2013-14 year. Every college and division is represented, so reach out to your colleagues and learn more about the plans. It will be an incredible year.

They say that if you want to accomplish a goal that you have to share that publicly, so I'm going to do that. Over the last 42 years the freshman 15 has evolved into the freshman 50, so I'm committing to losing at least 20 lbs. I share this with you so that you can help keep me in check, but also because if I start looking a little gaunt, I want you to know that I'm not sick.

As will this one. This is my tenth Convocation and I am more proud to serve as your President than I was back then. It's an honor and responsibility that I take very seriously. But what makes the experience so special is the opportunity to work alongside the best faculty and staff in higher education. From the bottom of my heart, thank you for your unwavering commitment to our students and the mission of this great university. And, as a result of our collective efforts, we will have a terrific year.