

2015 Fall Convocation

Bronco Student Center, Cal Poly Pomona

Monday, September 21, 2015

- 1. Irvin Harrison: Introduction of Tribal Elder**
- 2. Kim Marcus: Native American Blessing**
- 3. Rachel Dominguez: Welcome from Staff Council/Staff**

Good morning Cal Poly! Welcome to 2015-2016 Fall Convocation. My name is Rachel Dominguez, this year's president of Staff Council.

I would like to especially welcome all those new to Cal Poly Pomona. If you are new to the Cal Poly Pomona campus would you please stand so we can give you a warm welcome?

I look forward to seeing you on campus or at Staff Council's future events! We have a few coming up in just a couple of months, Staff Emeritus, which recognizes staff who have retired and Amelia Hammond Scholarships where Staff Council awards 4 scholarships to staff. To learn more about these events and other future events please visit Staff Council's website.

Immediately following Fall Convocation is our first event of the year, the Service Awards Ceremony acknowledging staff, which also includes Foundation, ASI and Cal Poly Federal Credit Union staff for their years of service. While Staff Council hosts this event every year it is also supported every year by the President's office and Foundation.

Let's move forward towards a great year of successes, achievements and yes, challenges. Challenges are what make life interesting. Overcoming them is what makes them meaningful!

Welcome back!

Now, I would like to invite ASI President Julian Herrera to the stage.

4. Julian Herrera: Welcome from ASI/Students

Good Morning. My name is Julian Herrera and I'm a fourth-year communications major with an emphasis in public relations. I am honored to be here today as Associated Students Incorporated, Cal Poly Pomona's student body president.

My goal is to support ASI's motto "Student Serving Students," and with the assistance of our ASI Vice President, **Diana Ascencio**, Student Government and the support of ASI Staff, we'll be doing just that by first, providing students with involvement and volunteer opportunities. Studies show that students who are involved in activities with their campus community perform better academically, and through the

programs and services offered by ASI, we can support our students by providing those opportunities for involvement.

Next, we hope to lead the charge in advocating for students' needs such as tackling higher education challenges, supporting access to an affordable and quality education, creating initiatives and policies to better serve the camps, and of course, lobbying at the local and state government levels.

But above all — we will serve as the collective voice on behalf of the students to enhance their experience here at Cal Poly Pomona.

I'm looking forward to working with students, Dr. Coley and the university administration, faculty and staff to create a positive difference for our students and fully support the educational mission of Cal Poly Pomona.

Thank you for supporting ASI, Student Government and my role as student body president.

5. Sep Eskandari: Welcome from Academic Senate/Faculty

Thank you Julian! We all appreciate your service as student leaders on this campus.

Good morning and welcome to the 2015-2016 academic year!

This year marks 77 years since Cal Poly Pomona's humble beginning back in 1938 as an all-male, San Dimas located, Voorhis Unit of California Polytechnic State College in San Luis Obispo, 59 years since 1956 when faculty, staff, and students moved to this current location, then called the Kellogg Campus, 54 years since 1961 when women first enrolled at Cal Poly Pomona, 49 years since 1966 when Cal Poly Pomona became an independent campus (known as the California State Polytechnic College, Kellogg Campus), and 43 years since 1972 when Cal Poly Pomona achieved university status (California State Polytechnic University, Pomona).

Today, Cal Poly Pomona is a mature comprehensive university with nationally and internationally recognized programs and a reputation that is the envy of other CSU campuses and indeed institutions outside of the CSU. What makes Cal Poly Pomona so special is all of you, faculty, staff, and

administrators, who work hard every day to make this place a noble educational center of excellence for our students. Cal Poly Pomona students love this campus and, this is in large part, due to how all of you — staff, faculty, and administrators — interact with them, teach them, guide them, and care for them on a daily basis. I am proud not only to be a member of this wonderful academic institution, but I also humbly stand before you as a product of this campus.

I am Sep Eskandari, Chair of the Academic Senate and Professor of Biological Sciences. I have the honor of serving alongside 38 dedicated Senators to represent the faculty voice on all academic matters. High on the Senate's list of priorities are academic policies and processes that relate to semester conversion.

As we prepare for our historic transition to a semester-based calendar, we must ensure that our programs are up-to-date and relevant to the challenges that our students will face in the workforce, and in graduate and professional programs they pursue. Our curricula and processes need to be solidly grounded in tradition, but also flexible and forward looking to allow us to keep pace with a rapidly changing educational, intellectual, technological, and global landscape.

It takes all of us to create the best learning and maturation conditions for our students; faculty who have a passion for training the next generation of students and are up-to-date and intellectually and creatively active, productive, and vibrant; staff members who love Cal Poly Pomona and our students and are well-trained through on-the-job learn-by-doing as well as through professional development opportunities; and administrators who have big hearts, coupled to a collective vision, to channel their talents and skills to create conditions that allow faculty, staff, and students to do the best, most creative, most efficient, and most productive work they can do.

Working closely with one another in a collaborative, cooperative, and synergist manner, we will not only create the smoothest transition for our students, but we will also create curricula and processes that accelerate Cal Poly Pomona's progress along its path to excellence. Our curricula must have a fine balance between specialized courses and a broad general education. It is the job of the Academic Senate to work with faculty, administrators, and staff to ensure that we get as close as possible to this ideal balance between specialization and generalization.

Getting this balance right will ensure that our graduates leave our embrace with the confidence that they can draw from their specialized training to solve practical and intellectual problems presented to them; that they can draw from their broad general education to carefully examine moral and ethical dilemmas; that our students not only have respect and tolerance for diversity, but indeed see the beauty and collective advantage brought about by diversity of race, religion, ethnic background, color, physical ability, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, as well as diversity of ideas and creative expressions.

While we have many challenges ahead of us, I am confident that we will rise above them because I know in my heart that, above all else, we are all united by our love and passion for our students. It is also a new day for Cal Poly Pomona. We have a new president who will guide the campus to formulate a refreshed and focused vision for Cal Poly Pomona. It will take all of us working together, hand-in-hand, shoulder-to-shoulder, and with interlocking goals, to lay a solid foundation for a better future for the next generation of students, faculty, staff, and administrators.

Students, faculty, staff, and administrators, it is now my privilege, honor, and distinct pleasure to welcome our President, Cal Poly Pomona's 6th president, President Soraya Coley.

6. Soraya M. Coley: Our Journey Forward

Good morning. Thank you **Rachel and Sep** for the welcome messages and the introduction. I look forward to working with the Academic Senate and Staff Council this year.

In fact, I would like to take a moment to recognize the members of the Academic Senate; would you please stand. Thank you for your investment in the institution's advancement and the service you provide.

We appreciate the contributions of the Staff Council. Would the officers of Staff Council also stand. Thank you for your commitment and contributions to the university as well.

We are always proud to see our students assuming leadership roles. I want to congratulate again our new **ASI President Julian Herrera and Vice President Diana Ascencio**. I look forward to working with them and all of ASI this year.

I want to thank our special guest **Mr. Kim Marcus** for the blessing. We are honored by your presence and your gift to the campus. What a wonderful way to begin our first full academic year together!

This year, our campus is welcoming a visiting American Council on Education Fellow. The purpose of the fellowship is for individuals to gain broad knowledge about institutional operations and as well as specific understanding in defined areas. We are pleased to welcome **Dr. Monique Snowden**, who is the Vice President for Planning and Institutional Effectiveness at Fielding Graduate University. Dr. Snowden will divide her time between Cal Poly Pomona, Educause, and her home institution. She will be especially interested in our work in government and external relations, strategic initiative setting and implementation, and leadership styles. Dr. Snowden, please stand so we may welcome you.

I would be remiss if I did not take a moment to thank everyone at Kellogg West for providing breakfast, and to the Bronco Student Center, the Events Office, MediaVision, Public Affairs and the President's Office for assisting with the arrangements for our Annual Fall Conference. Thank you for your support!

And speaking of support, I want to recognize my new Chief of Staff, **Gary Hamilton**, and my Executive Assistant, **Paulette Blumberg**, along with **Francine Ramirez**, my scheduler and presidential assistant, who had previously served in the interim role. Also, new to the role of Title IX Coordinator is **Linda Hoos**. She previously served as the manager overseeing compliance of equal employment opportunity and civil rights programs at the LA Transportation Authority. Would these members of the President's Office please stand and be recognized.

My husband Ron is unable to join us this morning. He will be at the reception this afternoon. He and I extend our thanks to all of you for having made us feel so welcome, and we are excited and proud to call this our home.

I distinctly remember this time last year when I was introduced by President Ortiz as the incoming president of Cal Poly Pomona. Being in the CSU system for 30 years, I have known that this is a special institution and was so excited about joining you and leading this university. And now almost a year later, I have even more passion and affection for Cal Poly Pomona. Every day, I learn something new about the

heart, the spirit, and intellect of the people who work here and the dedication and aspirations of the students who learn here.

My Journey to You

You may recall that we came together this past January and I delivered my first speech as your new president. I titled my message, “My Journey to You and Our Journey Together!” And in highlighting “My Journey to You,” I gave you a glimpse into my background, including my baby picture, my family life in North Carolina, my undergraduate years, and my professional growth and development, including service at Cal State Fullerton and CSU Bakersfield. I provided insight into the evolution of my beacon statement, which is “To remain Student-centered, Faculty and Staff-focused, and Community-minded.” And I indicated the principles guiding my leadership.

Our Journey Together

In my initial message about “Our Journey Together,” I shared the elements of my vision. Now I wish to expand upon that.

I believe that Cal Poly Pomona should be among the leading polytechnic universities in the nation preparing a highly diverse student population for the STTEAAM fields, which include: science, technology, tourism, engineering, agriculture, arts, and mathematics. Our identifiable signature programs will springboard students into successful careers and graduate education. Our strong teacher-scholar model, including our focus on interdisciplinary research and cross-disciplinary activities, will be linked with the community and industry. Through their engagement with the faculty and industry partners, our students will be at the forefront of problem-solving and the quest for innovative global solutions.

We recognize the high demand for a Cal Poly Pomona education, with nearly 48,000 applications this year and 2,700 new freshmen and 2,400 transfer students beginning in a few days. . We will provide a quality and engaging educational experience that makes clear our desired learning goals. We will be intentional about setting expectations, while also being mindful of timely graduation. Most importantly, we will meet and exceed the graduation rate target and close the gap for underrepresented students.

Working collaboratively across the Divisions of Academic and Student Affairs to build upon our success towards these goals is our new Provost, **Dr. Sylvia Alva**, who joins us from Cal State Northridge, where she served as a dean for seven years. Dr. Alva, please stand and be recognized.

Collaborating with Dr. Alva this year is **Ms. Kathy Street**, who serves as our Acting Vice President for Student Affairs and previously served as our Associate Vice President for Enrollment Services. Please stand and be recognized.

It is my hope that together we can formulate a strategy that will provide students with a plan for success that focuses beyond their career interests and goals. It will include leadership development, community enrichment, and will guide our students to find their place within the global environment. We will provide the skills, knowledge and values that we believe are essential to live, work and have meaning.

Through sustainable and innovative solutions, Cal Poly Pomona will be recognized as an exceptional institution in *every* area: Student Development and Achievement, Faculty Excellence, Staff Excellence, and Operational and Organizational Excellence. And speaking of operational and organizational excellence, **Dr. Ben Quillian**, who served as the Executive Vice Chancellor and Chief Financial Officer in the CSU Chancellor's Office, will be serving as the Acting Vice President and CFO for Administrative Affairs.

He will join fellow Cabinet members **John McGuthry**, our vice president for Information Technology and CIO; and **Paul Storey**, the Executive Director of the Cal Poly Pomona Foundation in examining operational effectiveness. Ben is not here this morning, but please join me in acknowledging John and Paul.

In talking about Our Journey Together, I used the image of our having understandably reached a plateau after adapting to drastic budget reductions over a number of years. The result of these reductions were evident: gaps in faculty and staff hiring; continued growth in deferred maintenance and related costs; salary depression; rising student tuition; and the lack of needed upgrades in academic space and technology.

In order to assess the impact on our campus and to hear from you, I launched Listening Tours across the university. Since January, I have completed 44 tours, visiting 37 academic departments, 7 administrative units, and have engaged with more than 478 faculty and staff. I have also met with numerous students clubs and organizations and the full leadership of ASI. But I am not done. I will complete my tours of academic programs and all the units this academic year.

As I listened to you, these are just a few of the themes emerging from our conversations:

First, we must build upon and invest in the expansion of **academic excellence**. The team of deans are leaders in this area, and joining them this year are two new interims. They are **Dr. Cheryl Wyrick** in the College of Business Administration and **Dr. Nancy Hurlbut** in the College of Education & Integrative Studies. Please welcome both of them into their new roles.

There are other emerging themes:

We must improve **graduation rates**, and continue increasing the diversity of our student, faculty and staff profile. We need to promote greater **interdisciplinary work** and reduce our historical departmental, college, and divisional silos. There should be more **hiring in areas of greatest demonstrated need**. We must invest in **faculty and staff development**, and be intentional about our support of faculty research and grant-seeking. Finally, we need to find ways to reduce paperwork, **streamline operations and improve our facilities**.

So with these needs and opportunities as a backdrop, we can ill-afford to remain on the plateau. Instead, we need to begin **“Our Journey Forward.”**

Our Journey Forward

As we examine our trek ahead, we recognize that there are external factors on the horizon that will affect our journey. I want to mention just three:

- 1. First, there will be increased need for access to education against a backdrop of lagging support for higher education.**

A basic contributing factor to social and economic mobility in our society has been education. In 2000, the United States ranked second in the world in its share of the population with a college degree. In 2014, we ranked 12th. The lack of a college education is one of the contributing factors to the growing income inequality in our

society. With a growing chorus of voices emanating from urban communities and pleas from our rural and depressed economic hubs, we hear growing calls for our nation to collectively build pathways out of impoverishment. We know that education is the defining factor in personal growth, economic advancement and improved quality of life.

Given the backdrop of lagging support for higher education, what is the future of funding for public higher education in California? How will we support upward and intergenerational mobility? I was delighted by the bi-partisan support this year for additional revenue to the CSU for enrollment growth. We applaud the Governor, the state legislature, and our Chancellor.

While we appreciate the additional increased revenue, we need to recognize that the allocation does not get us back to the pre-recession levels prior to 2008. Yet, our campuses continue to grow and the achievement gap continues to widen.

In our Journey Forward, we will be faced with determining future growth scenarios and their implications for access, how to best utilize current resources and secure new non-state revenue.

- 2. A second external factor is the increased public discourse and review of institutions, taking into account student achievement, graduation rates and the added value of the college degree.**

In many ways, these are the same things we care about and discuss among ourselves internally. But our analysis and timetable do not necessarily coincide with the public's. Thus, we must be proactive and prepared to engage in and help shape the discourse about student success and university achievements.

- 3. Third, college students of the not too distant future expect technology to be integrated into the learning environment and in the services of the university. The technology of choice, of course, are smart phones. In fact, students view mobile**

phones, laptops and tablets as a natural part of their educational and campus experience.

But we also know that the touch-screen of technology cannot substitute for the touching word or the encouragement of a faculty member or staff. It cannot replace the mentorship or guidance of a seasoned professor or a caring staff member. Our journey will include finding the optimal integration of technology into the learning environment and creating ease-of-use services that accommodate our students' busy lives.

Internal Factors

As we deal with the external factors, our journey forward also requires us to look internally, including reexamining and reaffirming our identity. There is a concept in psychology regarding identity development that suggests that in the absence of pro-active self-definition, others will ascribe an identity that may not be appropriate or accurate.

During the Listening Tours, several of you commented on the need to be intentional in distinguishing ourselves. I believe that it must start with a clear statement of the differentiated elements of a polytechnic university. We are one of only two in the state and less than a dozen in the country. And we readily note that we have a "learn-by-doing" approach. But what does that really mean? Is it hands-on education? Is it being tech savvy? Is it the mix of academic programs and/or the ways in which we engage with concepts and ideas? Is it apparent? Or has it become a default phrase?

In an era of service learning, community engagement, internships and undergraduate research across all CSU campuses and in other colleges and universities across the country, how does our brand of "learn by doing" differ? How do our disciplines reflect that educational philosophy? What are the implications for faculty hiring? How is our 21st century polytechnic education distinguished from the other 21 non-polytechnic CSUs? I believe answering these questions are essential to crafting our identity as we continue to advance on the national stage of higher education institutions and pursue community, regional, national, and international partnerships.

While readying for our journey forward, it is also the perfect time for us to thoughtfully weigh and answer several fundamental questions within the context of this new environment.

The American Council on Education posed three questions facing higher education today:

1. Who are we going to teach and serve?
2. What are we going to teach and study; and what methods will work best?
3. How are we going to pay for it?

Underlying these questions is a fundamental need to first reaffirm, recommit, or re-envision our direction as an institution. Does our vision capture our direction for the next climb, over the next 5 years or in the next 10? Are we aspirational? Does our vision connect with your hopes? Does it connect with the demographics and needs of this state and nation? Does our distinctiveness flourish through our innovative and unique approach to education?

Strategic Planning

To define our collective way forward, we will engage in a university-wide strategic planning process, with expected completion by the end of this academic year. The process will be well-represented with a broad range of internal and external stakeholders, and you will hear more about the details in the coming weeks. The outcome of this process will be the development of campus-wide goals and objectives with annual measures of progress to determine whether we are on course, whether we are moving towards our defined destination, and whether we have the appropriate budget plans needed to support our direction. Emanating from this process will be department and unit specific priorities that support the achievement of our goals.

Incorporated into this process will be a campus master plan that examines our facilities, especially our academic space in conjunction with growth projections. We will conduct an assessment of our campus footprint, including capacity for growth. As it is appropriate, we will develop a strategic agenda for revenue generation, including public/private partnerships and a significant increase in fundraising. Heading our fundraising division and our final Cabinet member is our new Vice President for University Advancement **Bedford McIntosh**. Bedford please stand.

A necessary part of our strategic discussion will center on how we will use the former property of the Lanterman Developmental Center, which has been renamed **Campus South**. The possibilities for developing this area are nearly limitless, with enormous opportunities to enhance education and develop public/private partnerships that benefit our students and faculty. Campus South will also have significant benefits to the economic growth of the city and this region. I welcome you to share your thoughts and ideas when we begin the planning process.

Student Success

Student Success is certainly another component of our strategic discussion. It is at the core of what we do. It's why we reconvene at the start of each academic year. It's why we review our goals, strategies and processes. Strengthening student success will be essential in our visioning process. While our focus on student success aligns with the external discussion in higher education at the federal, state levels and in the CSU, student success is already embedded in who we are and what we do. I'm proud to have discovered on my listening tour the excellence and commitment of our faculty and staff to engineer an extraordinary experience for our students.

Our challenge now is to encourage greater coordination and collaboration across our various divisions, programs and units. We must learn from one another and determine how we can institutionalize our successes. Our semester conversion initiative offers an ideal opportunity to look at the integrated systems of alerts, monitoring and communicating with our 24,000 students. This is a unique opportunity to become more data-driven in our approach and to explore promising practices that will optimize student success and improve our retention and graduation outcomes among all of our students.

Student success is everyone's job on this campus. While the academic exchange between faculty and student is essential and at the core of what we do, we know that there are other factors that can influence students' persistence, retention and graduation. I had the opportunity to experience this three months ago when I interacted with some of the 5,200 students who graduated, and more recently as I talk to alumni around the country. Each person has a different story of how their Cal Poly Pomona experience transformed their lives. What we do here matters!

Certainly we appreciate the role of Academic Affairs to student achievement. We also make a collective contribution to student success. So to showcase our varied activities, I am asking the vice president to

work with each of the offices/units *outside the academic departments* and programs to identify at least one way they contribute to the student experience and to student success, and to display that contribution in a prominent location. Your role might be maintaining the landscape or solving a financial aid problem. Each one of us is an important part of the total student experience.

Faculty and Staff

In order to look ahead and gauge how far we are from our goal, we must examine where we are today. As part of the strategic planning process, we will assess faculty and staffing needs and craft a multi-year plan to address them, within the scope of our resources. We will continue to look at targeted hiring, and increasing support of faculty and staff development.

Additionally, we need to build upon our commitment to having a diverse and inclusive campus, not only among the students, but also among the faculty and staff. The fullness of knowledge can only be captured when diverse groups come together to share, exchange and debate ideas.

Allow me to quote from a paper on campus diversity published by the Association of American Colleges & Universities:

Diversity is essential for excellence. Through diversity the knowledge base that serves as the foundation of the academy becomes richer, more accurate and more nuanced. Diversity also encourages a deeper understanding of our students and the ways in which their complex and dynamic identities influence what they learn and how they learn it. In these ways, diversity drives higher education toward excellence in teaching and learning.

Before I leave the subject of strategic planning, I want to take a moment to acknowledge the individuals who were instrumental in preparing the institution's 2011-2015 strategic plan. I know the former provost, Marten denBoer and the other vice presidents worked on the plan, but there were three people who deserve credit for integrating and organizing the information. Please join me in thanking **Dr. Shanti Srinivas, Dr. Peter Kilduff** and **Dr. Martin Sancho-Madriz** who provided critical leadership in our past planning process. The results of the plan are posted on the Academic Affairs website. Please stand and receive our thanks.

Final Comments

In January, I shared my excitement about the great potential of this campus for education in the 21st century and the wealth of expertise that you – our faculty and staff – bring to that process. I am convinced that when we connect our centers of excellence and achievement throughout the divisions, and when we identify with clarity what makes this campus so special and build upon those strengths, together, we will achieve even greater levels of excellence.

Together we will harness and replicate the best of us and build an even more exciting future for this campus. I am also aware that your institutional journey to date has not been a straight and uneventful path; and neither will our next journey be without barriers, challenges and stressors. But I believe that Cal Poly Pomona's 77 years of resiliency have emboldened us to meet whatever conditions may be forthcoming. Likewise, in joining you, I bring strength of determination, pride, and respect, along with a passion for who you are and what you stand for ... and with that, a belief that we will scale the next heights of our journey and succeed together!

Thank you and have a very successful fall quarter and a great academic year!

7. News and successes

In talking about our direction for the journey forward, we need to first understand that path that we have taken and acknowledge our achievements thus far. Equally important is supporting this community. As a team, we celebrate individual successes because they magnify the entire community. Let us take this time to recognize outstanding people and programs and hear some of the highlights from the past year...

[VIDEO – WITH AUDIO – 6 minutes]

*Cal Poly Pomona plays a critical role in the transformation of students' lives – and not just our students but also their families and their communities. The **Social Mobility Index** ranks Cal Poly Pomona fourth in the nation in helping graduates to create better lives. **Kiplinger's Personal Finance magazine** places us among the top 100 public universities that blend quality and affordability. The 2016 rankings from **U.S. News & World Report** again ranks us among the top public universities in the West. In addition, the College of Engineering ranked 15th in the nation.*

Last year, we received hundreds of grants to further our scholarship and research, as well also to expand our support of underrepresented students.

*The **College of Science** secured over \$6 million in federal grants, including \$3.2 million to increase the number of underrepresented students pursuing doctoral degrees in physics and the biomedical field. The college also received \$1.8 million to train students to protect our national infrastructure from cyber threats.*

*The **College of Engineering** received \$2.5 million from the federal government to promote graduate education in water conservation and sustainability. And the **TRIO ARCHES** programs received \$1.4 million to support low-income, first-generation and disabled students.*

There are personal stories of giving as well.

*In the College of Engineering, alumnus **Ganpat Patel** and his wife, **Manju**, have given \$1 million to upgrade the engineering projects lab and create an endowment for a lecture series.*

*The generosity of alumnus **Ron Gregoire** allows our students to have one of the best settings to learn, collaborate and innovate. The university named Gregoire Hall as a way to acknowledge his gift of \$2.5 million to the College of Business Administration.*

*Donor gifts are funding the fourth building at **The Collins College of Hospitality Management**. The new building is scheduled to open at the end of the year.*

*There are countless examples of student achievements. 2015 started on a high note when the **“Soaring Stories”** won the award for Most Beautiful Non-Commercial Float. Our 2016 entry, **“Sweet Shenanigans,”** is bound to draw smiles and hungry eyes.*

*Last year’s **National Model United Nations team** became the most decorated in university history. They earned an Outstanding Delegation award, along with 5 individual awards.*

A **team of architecture students** won first prize in the Los Angeles Business Council's Julius Shulman Emerging Talent Award Competition. They faced the five other architecture programs in the L.A. area, including USC and Cal State Long Beach.

In the College of Agriculture, the **Food Science Society** received an Outstanding Chapter in Organization Growth trophy from the Institute of Food Technologist Student Association. Our student group was among three finalists for the Chapter of the Year Award.

The **College of the Extended University** has been expanding its Global Education Program. This year alone, more than 500 international students, educators, government officials and other professionals participated in its training programs.

The **Affordable Learning Initiative** led by the University Library has saved students about \$5 million to date. The program collaborates with the Bronco Bookstore by providing alternative academic content. More than 250 faculty have participated.

This summer, we hosted about 200 athletes and supporters for the **Special Olympics World Games**. The Student Affairs staff welcomed delegations from Laos, Poland, Libya and the Isle of Man.

The campus also hosted over 350 teachers as part of a **statewide education summit**. One of the guest speakers was Justin Lim, an alumnus and an instructional coach at Rosemead High School. He discussed integrating technology into K-12 classrooms.

Several campuswide events are coming up, including... the annual **Ink & Clay exhibition** in the W. Keith and Janet Kellogg University Art Gallery. The opening reception is Saturday afternoon.

Also on Saturday... The **LA County Fair** is celebrating Cal Poly Pomona Day. Admission is free for students, faculty and staff. Join us for the parade at noon and other performances and activities throughout the day. More information is available on PolyCentric.

*The **athletics season** is in full swing. Our athletes, coaches and staff are coming off their best year ever, capturing our first Commissioner's Cup for the CCAA conference. On Friday, come out to cheer on the soccer teams as they face Cal State Dominguez Hills. Next Friday, the women's volleyball team plays Cal State San Marcos. Go Broncos!*

8. Sylvia Alva: New faculty and staff

Good morning! I am Sylvia Alva, provost and vice president for academic affairs. I am very excited to be here and begin a new academic year together.

I want to take this time to recognize all the new faculty and staff who are beginning a new year at Cal Poly Pomona. This year's group also includes the president and myself. In all, we have 43 new tenure-track faculty and 166 new staff members.

You can identify the new faculty and staff by the green ribbons and name tags that we are wearing.

I recently discovered that these ribbons are a tradition on this campus, and it is one of many I hope to learn in the coming months. Now, would all of the new faculty and staff please stand and be recognized. Thank you for welcoming us to the Cal Poly Pomona family.

9. Sylvia Alva: 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 2015, 14 individuals received this honor, with some also earning promotion to professor or associate professor. Please stand and be recognized as your name is displayed, and let us hold the applause until the end.

Congratulations to the faculty receiving tenure and promotion to professor...

And now recognizing faculty receiving tenure and promotion to associate professor...

Finally, congratulations to those receiving promotion to professor...

Congratulations to all of you.

10. Sylvia Alva: Provost's Awards – 2 MINUTES

I now have the honor of introducing the three winners of the Provost's Awards for Excellence. These awards celebrate the great work of our faculty in three areas: teaching, service, and scholarly and creative activities. A symposium will be held next year on March 2. I hope you'll join us for the event.

Now, let us honor the awardees.

Jennifer Switkes, from the Department of Mathematics & Statistics, is honored for Excellence in Teaching.

Winny Dong, professor in the chemical & materials engineering department, is honored for Excellence in Service.

Richard Willson, professor of urban and regional planning, is honored for Excellence in Scholarly and Creative Activities.

Congratulations!

I would like to invite Kathy Street to the stage as we recognize our outstanding advisors.

11. Kathy Street: Outstanding advisors

Good morning! I am Kathy Street, acting vice president for student affairs.

When we talk about the success of our students, we cannot discount the value of advising. Faculty and staff advisors provide mentoring, help students develop career plans, and teach them to navigate the university. We would now like to acknowledge the 2014-15 Outstanding Advisors. As your name is announced, please stand and be recognized.

[VIDEO: LIST OF ADVISORS – WITH AUDIO]

Amanda H. Podany, History/College of Letters, Arts, & Social Sciences

Ben Dewald, Hospitality Management/The Collins College of Hospitality Management
Broc A. Sandelin, Animal & Veterinary Science/College of Agriculture
Elke Azpeitia, Veterans Services/Student Affairs
Gwen Urey, Urban and Regional Planning/College of Environmental Design
Ian Carlson, Mathematics & Statistics/Academic Affairs
Nancy M. Sanders, Doctoral Programs/College of Education & Integrative Studies
Sepeedeh Ahadiat, Accounting/College of Business Administration
Victor F. Okhuysen, Industrial & Manufacturing Engineering/College of Engineering
Wei-Jen Lin, Biological Sciences/College of Science
Outstanding Program Awardee: University Housing Services' "College Themed Learning Communities" / Division of Student Affairs

Congratulations to our advisors.

12. Kathy Street: Outstanding staff – 3 MINUTES

Staff are crucial to the operations of the university. They maintain our buildings and technology infrastructure. They process tens of thousands of student applications. They ensure class registration, tuition payments and financial aid disbursements go smoothly every quarter. And of course, they make sure all of us are paid on time every month. Without a doubt, we have excellent staff on this campus. With that said, I'm proud to recognize four outstanding individuals who go the extra mile. Please stand as your name is announced.

[VIDEO: LIST OF OUTSTANDING STAFF – WITH AUDIO]

Abel Zamora, Campus & Web Applications

April Dawn, eLearning

Joan Horn, Procurement & Support Services

Michaele McConnell, Dean's Office in the College of Letters, Arts & Social Sciences

Congratulations to each of you.

13. Kathy Street: Obits – 2 MINUTES

Now, let us pause for a moment and remember friends and colleagues whom we lost this year.

[VIDEO: IN MEMORIAM LIST – WITH AUDIO]

Thomas W. Spalding, Kinesiology and Health Promotion

Wendy Nasmyth, Intercollegiate Athletics

Vaughn L. Lucas, Academic Technology

Roger S. Bloomfield, Landscape Services

Thank you. At this time, I would like to invite Professor Sep Eskandari to the stage to announce our Hart Award winner.

14. Sep Eskandari: George P. Hart award

As the chair of the Academic Senate, I have the privilege of announcing the recipient of the George P. Hart Award. Professor Hart taught in the Political Science Department for 30 years, served on the Academic Senate for more than 10 years (more than 2 years as the chair of the Senate), and was also active in the system-wide academic senate. He cared deeply about the university's academic reputation and vigorously promoted faculty participation in the shared governance of the university. The Hart Award recognizes faculty members who, in the tradition established by George Hart, are role models and leaders on campus and in the community. Unfortunately, George Hart passed away unexpectedly in 1995, however, his vision and passion live on as a reminder of what we all aspire to. In addition to the Hart Award that was established in his honor, the Academic Senate has permanently memorialized Professor Hart by naming the Academic Senate offices after him.

This year is the 20th anniversary of the Hart Award and, today, we are very happy that George's widow, Ms. Sandy Baldonado, is here with us. Before we announce this year's recipient, I would like to invite Sandy to say a few words about Professor Hart.

[SPEAKER – SANDY BALDONADO]

Thank you, Sandy! It is now my pleasure to announce that this year's Hart Award recipient is Dr. Kyle Brown from the College of Environmental Design. Dr. Brown has served in the College of Environmental Design for 17 years, but his teaching, service, and leadership extend beyond the boundaries of this campus. He works closely with community groups and schools in Pomona, bringing K-12 students to our

campus for unique educational experiences related to environmental sustainability. He has helped secure grants, contracts and gifts from many sources, including Amonix, Southern California Gas Company, the Boeing Foundation, and the Prete Foundation, just to name a few. As the director of the Lyle Center for Regenerative Studies, he is a leader in environmental sustainability (one of our six core values at Cal Poly Pomona). Our excellent reputation in this area is in no small part because of Kyle's contributions. He was instrumental in helping the university obtain a STARS gold certification and in developing the campus' Climate Action Plan. I have to say, however, that these accomplishments do not fully describe Dr. Brown. Other qualities of Dr. Brown that we have come to know and respect are his solid character, sincerity, intellectual curiosity, leadership, and dedication to students.

Please join me in congratulating Dr. Kyle Brown! President Coley, Kyle, and Sandy, would you please join me on stage?

[PHOTO WITH KYLE BROWN, PRESIDENT COLEY, SEP ESKANDARI, SANDRA BALDONADO]

[SPEAKER – KYLE BROWN]

15. Esther Chou Tanaka: Communications

Hello everyone! I am Esther Chou Tanaka, interim director for the Office of Public Affairs. I'm excited to share some projects and new initiatives related to communications.

We all know that our students live on their mobile phones and constantly communicate through social media. Have you heard of Snapchat? This social media network recently reached 4 billion daily video views. It has 100 million users, and just under half of them are between the ages of 18 and 24. On average, each person is watching about 40 short videos a day. Our students expect our communications to also be immediate and relevant. As a university, we must balance those expectations with our resources, as well as the need to provide accurate and thoughtful information.

With that said, I'm excited to share some new developments. Next month, a new Cal Poly Pomona **mobile app** will be available on iTunes and Google Play. Students will be able to view their class schedule, check grades and register for classes. It also has news, maps and information about campus events. More features are in development.

We will soon introduce a new tool for students called **Portfolium** that will allow them to showcase their coursework, projects and portfolio. They can connect with potential employers, collaborate on projects and ideas, and network with other students and alumni. Think of it as LinkedIn for college students, with an element of alumni engagement. Portfolium is launching throughout the CSU, and best of all, it will be free to all students and alumni. More information will be coming soon.

Mobile apps and new social networks are exciting, but I want to remind everyone about our existing communication resources. **PolyCentric and PolyUpdates** are the main vehicles for university news and announcements. If you want to comment about campus happenings, our **social media accounts** on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and LinkedIn are lively forums for the entire campus community. For emergency situations, the **Safety Alert system** will send messages to phones, email addresses and campus-owned computers. I encourage all of you to update your contact information in BroncoDirect and include your cell phone number so you can receive text messages during an emergency situation. More information about the Safety Alert System is available on the Safety Website.

Finally, we're encouraging President Coley to communicate with the campus in new ways. As part of her listening tour, she filmed video conversations with Professor David Speak and past ASI President James Cox. We plan to continue these video conversations with students, faculty, staff, alumni and community partners. In addition, President Coley will be joining us on social media. Details will be coming soon, so stay tuned.

Now, please welcome back Dr. Eskandari, who will close Convocation today.

16. Sep Eskandari: Closing

I would like to thank all of you again for joining us at Convocation. After this event, we will immediately start the Service Awards ceremony right here in Ursa Major. I hope you will stay and celebrate the success and commitment of our colleagues and friends. This afternoon and for the next few days, there will be college and division meetings, as well as workshops about key university initiatives, including semester conversion, student success, advising, and high-impact practices. Later this afternoon from 4-6 p.m., President Coley and her husband Ron will host a reception for faculty and staff at the Manor House.

This is indeed an exciting time for Cal Poly Pomona! I am very energized, refreshed, and ready to work with all of you. With your talent and hard work, and our shared vision for student success, we can accomplish so much together. Again, welcome to the 2015-2016 academic year. Let's have a wonderful and productive year together!