

California State Polytechnic University, Pomona
Fall Conference 2010 - Monday, September 20

FALL CONVOCATION ADDRESS

1 – Opening and Welcome

Good morning everyone and thank you Lisa! I am so glad all of you could join me today, my eighth Fall Conference.

You know, budget cycles don't turn on and off like incandescent lights. They are more like a dimmer switch. They slowly go dark – and gradually get brighter. I may be out of sync with others across the CSU, but I believe we are gradually getting brighter. We may not have the tent and a hot breakfast we had in years past, but we have moved a step forward here at Convocation with the return of the pins and a continental breakfast. It's not ideal – but it is progress!

Based upon my last Board of Trustee's evaluation, it is very clear that I do not need to introduce my wife and best friend I only need to acknowledge her presence, Betty Faye please stand and say hello.

As for progress, we are certainly in a better place. A year ago at this time, most of you had begun the painful reality of a 10 percent cut in your compensation via the furloughs. Our students were coming to terms with a 30 plus percent increase in their fees, combined with the fact that we could not offer the number of course sections they wanted. A number of part-time lecturers and temporary staff were not retained. Operational budgets to support scholarship, continuing education, travel and supplies were reduced to unprecedented lows. But each of you made sacrifices in your personal and professional lives that made a significant difference.

Thanks to you – I am optimistic about the new year!

We could dwell on our past problems – but we can't change history. We are not going to resolve past transgressions and the continuing absence of leadership in Sacramento by reliving our woes. We WILL move forward – – celebrating the extraordinary things that you and your students have accomplished. And here is just a sample:

For starters, I can say something that no previous president could have ever stated in the 72-year history of our university. The Cal Poly Pomona men's basketball team is the defending NCAA Division II National Champion.

Also from the department of "never happened before." Our 2010 entry in the Rose Parade - Jungle Cuts - became the first float in the 121-year history of the Tournament of Roses to win two major honors: the Bob Hope Humor Trophy and the Viewers' Choice Award.

I am especially proud of the work of the University Strategic Plan Committee, which created a vision that can grow with Cal Poly Pomona. Unlike many strategic plans that collect dust on the shelf, ours has goals and action items. The accompanying matrix identifies who will be responsible for the implementation of those goals and a timeline for completion. But most important, this plan is fluid. We are not the same university we were five years ago, and it's safe to say we'll be a different place five years from now. A good strategic plan allows for change, and that's the type of document that will be serving us. We have all had the opportunity to review and respond to the plan so please join your colleagues for a special discussion of the strategic plan tomorrow at 2 p.m. in Ursa Major B.

Last month I had the privilege of taking part in a ribbon-cutting ceremony for our new partners in Innovation Village. The Southern California Edison facility houses the Transmission Engineering Division. Many are working on what is known as the Smart Grid and their numbers are expected to grow from 375 to over 700 in the next couple of years. A significant number of our graduates are among them. Edison has begun construction on a second building, and a third may be on the horizon. I also hope you have seen the stately new signage and beautiful landscaping on the corners of Temple and Valley, designed to frame the infrastructure projects at Innovation Village and create a better-defined entry to the campus. This was all made possible by a grant from the Economic Development Agency in partnership with the Foundation.

Last May we celebrated the completion of the student Residential Suites Phase II. This project added 622 beds in popular suite layouts, new multipurpose rooms, a recreational area, an amphitheater-style stage, a courtyard and the new Denny's and Market at Bronco Commons. If you have not had a chance to visit the new Bronco Commons, home of the Bronco statue, which was donated by alumnus Don Huntley, please do so. It is an absolutely a beautiful new hub for student life at the university.

Our investment in grants and contracts continues to pay dividends. The number of applications for grants and contracts in 2009-10 increased by nearly five percent. And we applied for over 55 million dollars. Of special note, two important programs received Federal TRIO grants. We received 1.4 million dollars for the ARCHES tutoring and peer mentoring program in the Disability Resource Center, and 1.9 million dollars for the College Reading Skills Program in the Learning Resource Center. Just last week, we received a one million dollar grant to investigate stereotypes and motivators for women in math and science. Congratulations everyone!

We continue to embrace and elevate our commitment to sustainability. Over the summer we installed over 4,600 photovoltaic panels covering a portion of Parking Lot M as well as the roof of Kellogg Gym. The solar systems can generate up to 1.8 million kilowatt hours of electricity annually, the equivalent of powering 161 homes for a year. The carbon savings is equivalent to planting 282 acres of pine trees. In addition, a gift from the Amonix Corporation has made the Lyle Center 100 percent carbon neutral. Two Amonix solar systems will generate 210,000 kilowatt hours of clean, renewable energy annually, displacing 85 metric tons of greenhouse

gases. The new system will meet the Lyle Center's energy demands eliminating greenhouse gas emissions and will save the university 30 thousand dollars annually.

Through the efforts of the Foundation, Cal Poly Pomona became the first university in the nation to house the Dream Machine kiosks, allowing consumers to learn more about recycling, accumulate reward points for doing so and monitor their recycling activities via wireless internet connections.

We continue to convert our fleet to electric vehicles for use on campus. In addition, the Bronco Express Shuttles are now being fueled exclusively by clean natural gas.

There are noteworthy things happening in the colleges. We are in the process of launching our first independent doctoral program with an Ed.D. in the College of Education and Integrative Studies. The College of Business Administration received its AACSB accreditation while also breaking ground on the new CBA complex adjacent to the Rose Garden. The Collins College is moving forward with a new masters program in hospitality management. In CLASS, the theatre department received a truly outstanding evaluation by an external faculty review team. The SEES and MEP programs continue to be a campus model for their success in facilitating student learning.

Last, but certainly not least, The W.K. Kellogg Foundation gave Cal Poly Pomona 42 million dollars – the largest cash gift in the history of The California State University. This endowment gift will support at-risk communities, as well as the faculty and staff who steward their education. The Kellogg gift is a challenge grant, designed to inspire all of our communities to step up and support the 150 million dollar comprehensive campaign. I'll have much more on the campaign later in my remarks.

2 - Introductions and Recognition

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 pass away.

Let's take a few moments as we share the names and faces of members of our family who will not be with us today:

Terri Brown – Intercollegiate Athletics

Patrick Merrill – Curator, Keith and Jean Kellogg Art Gallery

Bill Morse – Chair, Theatre Department

Leslie Stoltz – Faculty, College of Education and Integrative Studies

Xuehe Zheng – Faculty, Chemistry

Cal Poly Pomona is a student-centered university. I am proud to introduce the two newly elected individuals who will lead our student body this academic year. Please join me in welcoming:

ASI President **Ismael Souley** and Vice President **Jonathan Jianu**

It is also my pleasure to introduce new or newly appointed members of our leadership team. Last year, two longtime deans made dramatic moves in their lives. Legendary College of Engineering Dean Ed Hohmann announced his retirement after 35 years at Cal Poly Pomona, while his counterpart in the College of Science, Don Straney, became the new chancellor at the University of Hawaii Hilo. In their stead, Provost denBoer identified two distinguished members of our faculty to serve as interim deans. As I call your name would you please stand?

In the College of Engineering – Dean **Don Coduto**. And in the College of Science – Dean **Mandayam Srinivas**. Congratulations, gentlemen, and thank you for your willingness to serve (lead applause).

Convocation allows all of us to recognize the great work and accomplishments of our faculty and staff. When it comes to making a difference in the lives of our students, few things have a greater impact than the quality of advisement.

Advisors play a crucial role in helping our students reach their educational objectives and complete their degrees. We annually celebrate outstanding advisors for their work in the colleges and the Division of Student Affairs. Let me introduce our Outstanding Advisors for 2009-10. Please stand when I call your name, and hold your applause until the end.

- **Barbara Burke**, Chemistry/College of Science
- **Kevin Farmer**, Management & Human Resources/College of Business Administration
- **Dennis Jacobsen**, Education/College of Education and Integrative Studies
- **James S. Kang**, Electrical and Computer Engineering/College of Engineering
- **Donald W. St. Hilaire**, Collins College of Hospitality Management
- **Broc A. Sandelin**, Animal & Veterinary Science/College of Agriculture
- **Amber STROman**, Student Support and Equity Programs/Student Affairs
- **Faye L. WAX**, Psychology & Sociology/College of Letters, Arts, and Social Sciences
- **Andrew O. Wilcox**, Landscape Architecture/College of Environmental Design

And the Outstanding Advising Program Awardees are:

- **Achievement, Retention and Commitment to Higher Education Success [ARCHES], Disability Resource Center/Student Affairs**
- **Mechanical Engineering At-Risk Advising, Mechanical Engineering/College of Engineering**

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 2010, 14 individuals received this honor, with some also earning promotion to associate professor or professor.

I have invited each of them to join us today, so we can celebrate their achievement. Would you rise as I call your name and, again, please hold your applause.

Receiving tenure and promotion to professor:

- **Dr. Timothy Corcoran** – Chemistry
- **Dr. SEDric Dawkins** – Management and Human Resources

Receiving tenure and promotion to associate professor:

- **Dr. HO-SANE AH-MOD-ZA-DAY** – Chemistry
- **Dr. Floyd Klavetter** – Chemistry
- **Dr. Stacy McGoldrick** – Psychology and Sociology
- **Dr. Rah-KESH Mogul** – Chemistry
- **Dr. Shelton Murinda** – Animal and Veterinary Sciences
- **Dr. Alexander Ortenberg** – Architecture
- **Associate Professor Axel Prichard-Schmitzberger** - Architecture
- **Associate Professor Michele Rash** – Animal and Veterinary Sciences
- **Dr. Christos Stathopoulos** – Biological Sciences

Receiving tenure and promotion as a Student Services Professional-Academic Related III:

- **Dr. Stephen Okiyama** – Counseling and Psychological Services

Receiving tenure:

- **Dr. Amy Gimino** – Education
- **Dr. Ronald Leon** – Education

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 re-recognizing the **2009-10 Outstanding Staff**. Would you rise as I call your name and, again, please hold your applause.

Outstanding Staff

- **Jovito Barrantes**, I & I T
- **Reggie Keys**, University Housing Services

- **Hector Maciel**, Physics
- **Rhonda Ostrowski**, College of Agriculture

Congratulations to each of you... *(lead applause)*

I am now proud to announce the 14th 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.

Before we introduce the 2010 recipient, please welcome to the dais a member of our extended family, **Ms. Sandra Baldonado**, who was George's wife. Sandy is an attorney in the local community, and the former Mayor of the City of Claremont. She comes every year to honor George's legacy and to assist us in this recognition. Sandy...

(Sandy Baldonado addresses crowd)

Our 2010 recipient has been described as an outstanding professor, scholar, mentor, and campus and community leader. Her classes are noted for her innovations, versatility, range of knowledge, community service-learning opportunities, group performances and campus experiences. This year's honoree is an active community leader as a member of the Black and Brown Coalition of Los Angeles, an organization designed to address the conflicts and violence that permeate many high schools today. She also created the Diversity Ambassador Program to educate high school students about common heritages and engage them in dialogue around issues of tensions and harmony. Our recipient is an exemplary leader as a teacher-scholar on issues of multiculturalism and diversity as well as a mentor to faculty.

Please join me in welcoming to the dais a professor in Ethnic and Women's Studies, and the 2010 George P. Hart award winner – **Dr. Toni-Mokjaeti Humber**...

3 – Next Steps for Cal Poly Pomona

It's no surprise that we have a lot on our plate this year.

One of the most significant events for our campus is the visit by the WASC Educational Effectiveness Review Team on October 20-22. The EER team will be here to evaluate our commitment to delivering a quality education validated by a culture of evidence. WASC accreditation is one of the most important aspects of our identity in the educational community. That accreditation is rooted in our commitment to learning, and evaluating the results so we can improve on what we're doing.

Members of the university community prepared an EER report that focused on three themes:

- Institutional Excellence – Demonstrating our growth as an outstanding learning institution

- Teacher-Scholar – Fostering the synergy between teaching and scholarship, and
- Student Success – Propelling a diverse group of learners toward extraordinary life achievements.

Tomorrow, all of the colleges and most of the divisions will have their fall meeting. It's my expectation that WASC is a topic of conversation at all of them. We hope you take this opportunity to conceptualize your own ideas of how we apply continuous improvement in every department on campus.

The visit from the WASC team requires a commitment from EVERYONE. We know that during the last visit, the team randomly asked students if they knew what *learn by doing* was and whether they had an opportunity to practice it. This time, they might ask faculty what the teacher-scholar model means to them, or to explain their role in their department's program assessment. Students may be queried about their major's learning outcomes. Staff could be asked how their job aligns with the university vision and core values. This is an extremely important visit and we must be prepared.

Tomorrow at 3 p.m., here in Ursa Major, the WASC Steering and Planning Committees will host a special event to raise awareness of the main points presented in the EER report and to discuss these and other possible questions

Your participation at the college, division and campus level in our WASC accreditation is extremely important. Our mission, core values and educational model cannot solely be words on a paper, but must be embedded in our professional lives. Accreditation is essential to the mission of the university and our academic reputation. Stay tuned for more news and information about this important upcoming visit.

Let me start the next topic by taking a quick straw poll. How many of you believe that more than 75 percent of our freshmen graduate in six years or less? OK – How many of you believe that number is 60 percent or more? 50 percent? Well folks, the sad fact is that only 48 percent of freshmen graduate in six years or less. With the quality of students we admit, that number is unacceptable. If you were scoring this test, we would fail – miserably. One of our most important initiatives in the coming years is to improve our graduation rate, in particular, increasing the number of underrepresented students earning degrees. I shared with my Cabinet last month that this was the most important issue that we needed to address this year and beyond. The graduation initiative involves all 23 CSU campuses and is expected to raise six-year graduation rates system-wide by eight percentage points by 2016, as well as cut in half the existing gap in our underrepresented communities. The goal is not to sacrifice the integrity of our academic programs, but to address the factors that prevent students from successfully completing those programs.

Last year, under the leadership of Provost denBoer, we launched a blue-ribbon committee that considered a range of variables that affect graduation rates at Cal Poly Pomona. The team

found that suggested solutions fell into three broad areas: advising, curriculum and engagement. The committee is seeking your input before they move into year two.

What are the obstacles that prevent students' success? How can you help to knock them down? How can we use the Kellogg gift to make a significant difference? I am asking you to join your colleagues right here tomorrow, Tuesday, at 4 p.m., for this important discussion with the Graduation Initiative Committee. We must all recommit ourselves to student success.

Another important initiative for the university is to finalize the next iteration of the Campus Master Plan. This document provides a physical framework that guides the planning of our academic and student communities. The discussions today will drive the decisions of tomorrow, so it's essential that everyone share their voice.

Our team in Facilities Planning, Design and Construction, as well as our consultants, have done a marvelous job of looking closely at our physical resources so we can consider all of our options. Please join me today at 1:30 p.m. in Ursa Major for a special discussion on the Campus Master Plan.

Earlier, I commented that I am cautiously optimistic about this budget year. Now I must admit that this perception is more of a comparison to where we have been the past couple of years, and not where we should be. When it's freezing outside, warming into the 40s might seem like a heat wave.

The fact is that future funding for public higher education in California remains uncertain and the trend is not positive. The California economy can no longer fully support the breadth of our state agencies and programs. Unfortunately, I don't expect that to change. While we have, and will continue to make, a compelling case for support, I cannot foresee us ever getting the same level of funding per student that we received ten years ago.

That's not to say that you'll never see an increase in compensation or enhanced programmatic support. That day will come. But California will need to make some difficult decisions very soon. It's clear that any sustainable funding will only come from a balanced, deficit-free budget. After patching a \$60 billion dollar hole last year, we face a 20 billion dollar shortfall this year.

The good news is that the Legislative Budget Conference committee approved the Governor's proposed budget for higher education, which restores 305 million dollars above current year funding for the CSU, as well as an additional 60.6 million dollars for enrollment growth. We are clearly a priority. But we still don't have a signed budget, and much of these actions are predicated on the state hitting its revenue projections.

The verbal support so far from the Governor and Legislature gives us reason to be optimistic, but don't be surprised if the budget process remains incomplete in the coming weeks. It's a moving target.

The subject of public funding goes back to a statement that I have made repeatedly. We are no longer exclusively state funded. If our mindset is to educate our students with just public dollars, then this university will ultimately wallow in mediocrity. Excellence comes at a price. If Cal Poly Pomona is to keep up with the demands of the California economy as well as graduate and professional schools, we must make the acquisition of external funding among our highest priorities.

And so today, Monday, September 20, 2010 we are formally launching the public phase of our 150 million dollar comprehensive campaign. The banners you see across campus and the new campus home page celebrate the university's identity and elevates the importance of the campaign. We are more than halfway to our goal – but it's vital we maintain our momentum.

So let me please direct your attention to a special presentation that was 100 percent the work of our faculty and staff.

(PLAY CAMPAIGN VIDEO)

This IS our time. It's happening because of people like W.K. Kellogg and Charles Voorhis. It's happening because of our alumni and our friends in industry. It's happening because of you, people who recognize that we must constantly strive to be better tomorrow than we are today.

This month, the Cal Poly Pomona Alumni Association announced an unprecedented program for new donors. It has set up a \$100 thousand dollar matching fund for any new alumni gift to the university. As such, a \$100 dollar gift automatically becomes \$200 dollars. This also applies to increasing past gifts. We are also preparing opportunities for everyone on campus to get involved and make gifts that are truly meaningful.

Betty and I invite you to join us today at the Manor House at 4 pm as we celebrate the Kellogg Foundation gift. And finally, I hope you stay here right after Convocation when we recognize the commitment of our faculty and staff with the 2010 Service Awards. It's a GREAT time to be a Bronco - thank you and best wishes.