

**Mid-Semester Communication from President Soraya Coley**  
**Posted on Friday, October 26, 2018**

Hello Fellow Broncos,

Well, we've reached another milestone together.

We have passed the half-way point of the first semester in Cal Poly Pomona history. I can't begin to express my gratitude for the effort, ingenuity, and patience of our campus community in converting from quarters to semesters. It has been a monumental effort to get to this point, but one grounded firmly in our collective commitment to helping our students succeed.

It is truly an exciting time at Cal Poly Pomona, and the excitement isn't just about semesters.

- This fall, we welcomed the largest class of students in our university's history, demonstrating once again our dedication to making a Cal Poly Pomona education accessible to aspiring students.
- We were recognized as national leader in awarding bachelor's degrees to minority students.
- In September, we formally opened "Project Blue," a riparian restoration project located behind Building 1, which will serve as an outdoor classroom as well as a place of relaxation and contemplation for the campus community.
- Our faculty continue to be honored for their scholarship and innovation. To cite just two examples: the Cal-Bridge program, directed by Professor Alexander Rudolph, recently won a \$5 million grant to promote diversity in physics and astronomy and three of our faculty members—Juliana Fuqua, Faye Wachs, and Paul Nissenon—received a CSU Faculty Innovation and Leadership Award for creating a novel approach to teaching mechanical engineering.
- And earlier this month, I joined Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval, Superintendent Richard Martinez, and other campus and civic leaders in opening the Innovation Orchard at Ganesha High School. I'll mention a little more on that in a moment.

These items only begin to scratch the surface, and we're looking to build on these successes through our strategic planning process.

On October 2nd, I was pleased to join ASI President Jenny Greenberg in our first "Pizza with the Presidents" event of the academic year. "Pizza with the Presidents" is a long-standing tradition at Cal Poly Pomona where the ASI President and the University President get to hear directly from students about what is important to them and what is happening on campus. I want to thank Ben Dargan, our new Dean of Students, for moderating the discussion. I greatly enjoyed the conversation where we covered a range of topics including course availability, parking, and the new branding initiative. We of course never have time to answer all the questions, so I invite everyone to visit "[polycentric.cpp.edu](http://polycentric.cpp.edu)" where answers to all the questions have been posted.

The new branding initiative was a popular topic of discussion at "Pizza with the Presidents." I had the privilege of revealing the new logo and university seal at the center of our branding initiative at Fall Conference in August, where I talked about the meaning and purpose of these new symbols of our university.

As a core component of our Academic Master Plan, our faculty developed eight elements of an inclusive polytechnic university. Conceptualizing Cal Poly Pomona in this way distinguishes us as an institution. It was these eight elements that served as the inspiration for the new octagon in our new logo.

We are currently in the planning stages for Cal Poly Pomona's next fundraising campaign. The need for public universities to independently raise funds is more important than ever, and the branding initiative is a central piece of how we will tell the Cal Poly Pomona story during the upcoming campaign. This bold image gives us an opportunity to highlight what makes us unique and accentuate our impact on the region, the state, and the world.

I invite you to learn more at the website below. ([www.cpp.edu/brand](http://www.cpp.edu/brand))

We've already accomplished so much this semester, and there's much more to come.

- Our new Student Services Building speeds toward completion,
- Next month we're breaking ground on our new Rose Float Lab,
- Our Employee and Organizational Development Department are reimagining new employee orientation,
- The new travel reporting and reimbursement system is being rolled out,
- And, we have selected a developer for the Lanterman site, who will now lead a campus-wide discussion exploring needs and opportunities at the site.

During the last academic year, I introduced two video segments that would accompany my campus updates called "Difference Makers" and "Bronco Bravo." In closing, I invite you to watch the latest installments.

This edition of "Difference Makers" highlights our Student Innovation Idea Lab, also known as the iLab. As you will see, the iLab is a catalyst for creativity and entrepreneurship and a critical piece of our efforts to prepare students for the future of work. You will also get a glimpse of the recently opened Innovation Orchard at Ganesha High School in Pomona. This new facility is a collaborative project between the iLab and the Pomona Unified School District that combines startup training and makerspace facilities to help students develop creative solutions to community challenges.

And finally, the new Bronco Bravo segment is a bittersweet one. In September, Rosie Wegrich, who is in her 27th season as head coach of Cal Poly Pomona's volleyball team, announced she will retire in December. Rosie is a Cal Poly Pomona legend, and I invite you to send her off in style by attending her last home game on Saturday, October 27, in Kellogg Arena.

To watch these videos, follow the links at the end of this video or look in the description below.

To all Broncos, I thank you for making our university great and wish you a healthy and successful remainder of the semester.

Thank you.