



CSU Bakersfield

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PRESIDENT'S MONTHLY CAMPUS UPDATE

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University Day Address

Discover. Inspire. Innovate. Transform. Connect. These words characterized our University Day 2013 theme, "Positioning the University for the Future: Stepping Outside of the Box." Thinking outside of the box often is merely an intellectual exercise with no commitment to action or outcomes. Stepping outside of the box, however, requires concrete action. It is from this mindset of behavior and action that we begin the 2013-14 academic year, moving forward key initiatives to position our students and the University for greater success. In my University Day Address, I spoke about these priorities and plans as well as the significant achievements we have made working together over the last several years during severe budget challenges. My University Day Address is available at the following link: http://president.csub.edu/fil_files/246.pdf.

New Student Convocation Address

Our fall 2013 headcount exceeds 8,500 students and includes 1,361 first-time freshmen and 711 transfer students. In my New Student Convocation Address, "You and CSUB: A Partnership for Your Success," I was pleased to speak to our incoming students and their families. We wear regalia at New Student Convocation, just as we do at Commencement, not only to formally welcome students into the academy of higher learning, but also as a symbol of, and the collective commitment of faculty, staff, administrators, students, and parents to students' matriculation and graduation from the University. You may learn more about that commitment in the New Student Convocation Address at: http://president.csub.edu/fil_files/247.pdf.

Quarter-to-Semester Conversion

Our quarter-to-semester conversion is in progress. The projected date for the conversion is fall 2016 and is undertaken in collaboration with the Chancellor's Office and CSU LA. **Provost Soraya Coley** and I are executive sponsors of the Q2S conversion. **Dr. Craig Kelsey**, Dean of Extended University and Interim Director of CSUB Antelope Valley, has agreed to serve as project director. **Kal Shenoy**, Director of Administrative Computing and Interim AVP for Information Technology Services, also is on the planning team. The Chancellor's Office is providing 100% of the information technology cost and 75% of all other relevant costs. In the next several weeks, a Q2S website will be developed and you will hear from Craig regarding composition of various committees needed for the conversion.

General Education Redesign

In concert with our quarter-to-semester conversion, our faculty is redesigning our general education curriculum to more directly align with our university learning outcomes. During University Week, our faculty reviewed and discussed three models of general education. After deliberating the pros and cons of each, they selected a thematic model which will carry themes across schools and disciplines.

Construction Projects

We completed construction of our second engineering building and classes are being held in the classrooms and labs. Construction of the art center, a 15,000 square foot facility, is in progress northwest of the Doré Theater near the rose garden. The related new central plant, located across from the existing residence halls, also is underway. The 500-bed student housing complex is under construction on the northeast side of campus with occupancy planned for January 2015. We are reviewing submissions received in response to a request for qualification of firms to build a hotel and conference center on the southwest section of campus along Camino Media. Rounding out my list of high priority construction projects is faculty towers, which, thankfully, also is high on the Board of Trustees' list for whenever new funding for construction projects is provided by the State.

Congressman Kevin McCarthy Brings Valley Fever Symposium to CSUB

On Monday, September 23rd and Tuesday, September 24th, CSUB alum **Congressman Kevin McCarthy** will host a Valley Fever Symposium here in Bakersfield. Monday evening's events, Recognizing Our Valley Fever Survivors, includes a reception for survivors followed by a community forum with **Thomas Frieden, M.D.**, Director of the Center for Disease Control, and **Francis Collins, M.D.**, Director of the National Institutes of Health. The events will be held at the Kern County Department of Health Hans Einstein Center. On Tuesday, the Fighting Valley Fever Symposium will feature presentations on the state of the science by leading experts in valley fever research and treatment, as well as discussion about the Congressional Valley Fever Task Force; California Public Policy and Challenges; Susceptible Populations and Valley Fever; and Pets/animals and Valley Fever. Tuesday's events will be held at CSUB in the Student Union Multipurpose Room 8:00 a.m.-4:45 p.m. For more information, please see Kevin's invitation on his website at https://iqconnect.lmhostediq.com/iqextranet/view_newsletter.aspx?id=128589&c=CA22KM.

Presidential Evaluation

It has been my privilege and honor to serve with you as President of CSU Bakersfield for the past nine years. Every three years, the CSU Board of Trustees and the Chancellor evaluate campus presidents. My third review is underway. The evaluation process affords interested persons the opportunity to comment on presidential leadership and the state of the university within outlined review criteria. I invite your comments. Details for engagement are provided in a letter from Chancellor Tim White at the following link: http://president.csub.edu/file_files/248.pdf.

Foundation Board

The CSUB Foundation continues to be a significant partner for the University. **Morgan Clayton**, President of Tel-Tec Security Systems, Inc., has completed two outstanding years as chair of the Board of Directors. The new Chair is **Thomas DeNatale**, Managing

Partner, Klein, DeNatale, Goldner, Cooper, Rosenlieb & Kimball, LLP, who will be an outstanding Chair, as well. The Vice Chair is alumnus **Jon Van Boening**, President and CEO of Bakersfield Memorial Hospital. Serving as subcommittee Chairpersons are: Executive / Nominating Committee – **Tom DeNatale**; Advocacy – **Greg Bynum**, President, Gregory D. Bynum & Associates, Inc.; Audit – **Geoff King**, Partner, Barbich Hooper King Dill Hoffman Accountancy Corporation; Finance – **Jon Van Boening**; and Community Engagement and Cultivation – **Morgan Clayton**.

President's Community Advisory Council

The President's Community Advisory Council also plays a vital role in keeping me informed of community issues and providing invaluable feedback on how the University can contribute to addressing those concerns. Our outgoing Chairperson is **Bryan Burrow**, President and CEO, Bakersfield Symphony Orchestra. Stepping into that role is **Maria Hernandez**, most recently with Univision Communications, Inc. The Co-Chair is **Matthew Park**, Senior Government Relations Director, PG&E. I am also pleased to welcome to the committee two new members, alumnus **Ken Beurmann**, Chief Executive Officer of Terrio Physical Therapy & Fitness, and **Sasha Windes**, Founder and Executive Director of Kern Green, and CEO of Greenshops Consulting.

University Council

The first University Council meeting of the academic year will be held Friday, October 25 at 10:00 a.m. in the Albertson Room. University Council is an open forum for members of the campus community to voice concerns or make suggestions for continued improvement. All faculty, staff, and students are welcome to attend.

I look forward to seeing you around campus or at an upcoming University or community event. Take care.


Horace Mitchell
President