February 18, 2013

To: The Campus Community

I noted in my last President’s Update that I would follow with another focused on matters other than budget. The semester has started well-- Enrollment is solid and on track. Our baseball and softball teams have renewed that important rite of spring – thanks to the latter for letting me throw out the season’s first pitch. Music and Theatre productions are underway. “Science Day,” organized by the American Chemistry Society Club, the Biology Club, the Society of Physics Students, and the Pre-Health Society, brought thousands of kids and their parents to campus hopefully to jumpstart science careers. The Student Health Center met national standards to receive re-accreditation. In short, good things are happening. Other examples include:

Julie Fox, Director of Service Learning, recently received a “Turlock’s Best” Award from the Chamber of Commerce, recognizing her long-term stewardship of activities that truly make a difference in our community. We are grateful to and proud of her.

We are similarly proud of four of our Math students (Jo Fawna Reali, Suzi Urquizos, Joshua Galvez, and Paulos Alemu – and their advisor, Dr. JungHa An) who were awarded “Outstanding Presentation” in the Mathematical Association of America Undergraduate Poster Session at the Joint Mathematics Meetings in San Diego.

Congratulations to faculty and staff members (among them, Professors Arounsack, Miller-Antonio, Gomula-Kruzic and Wallace) who have translated their passion for documenting the Central Valley’s culture into a $250,000 award from the W.M. Keck Foundation to establish the Keck Visual Anthropology Lab.

One of only ten student award recipients nationally, Christina Alger has received the Society for Human Resource Management’s Undergraduate Education Award and a $2,500 scholarship. Our congratulations to her and to the proud faculty members of the human resource management program.
Student-athlete Alycia Wagner, a pole vaulter, has received an NCAA Minority Enhancement Program Postgraduate Scholarship for Careers in Athletics, the first ever awarded to a CSU Stanislaus student. We celebrate with her.

Our University was among the sponsors of this year’s Martin Luther King, Jr. Legacy Award honoring The Bridge, an organization serving the needs of Southeast Asian refugees and their families in our region. The Bridge has strong ties to CSU Stanislaus, not least of which is Emerita Professor of Physical Geography Dr. Ida Bowers’ contributions to founding the program in 1989.

CSU Stanislaus was prominently featured at the “Steps to Success” event at the Mexican Consulate in Sacramento on February 2. Thousands of Latino high school students and their families learned that our campus offers a talented faculty and staff, a true college experience, and a welcoming and encouraging student population. Many thanks to Noelia Gonzalez, Luis Arrizon, and Miguel Pulido for representing us well.

I could go on for many more paragraphs and still not capture all the important successes of our faculty, staff and students. Perhaps that is the point to make: CSU Stanislaus, through the generous and industrious efforts of its employees, students, and alumni, continues to make a difference in people’s lives. I am grateful, and the community clearly is as well.

Sincerely,

Joseph F. Sheley

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