April 28, 2015

To: The Campus Community

Standing Up Against Domestic and Sexual Violence

I write to thank all of the members of our campus community who participated in the Haven Women's Center's "Walk a Mile in Her Shoes" in downtown Modesto this past Saturday. Men walked. Women cheered. Children learned. Faculty and staff members, students, and administrators wore high heels, and paid the price in quaking calves and ankles and, later, very sore lower backs. Student Affairs and Residential Life really stepped up, bringing a busload of students. Fraternities made a huge statement. All aimed at sending the message that domestic and sexual violence will be tolerated no longer. Modesto saw our campus make its statement in its Warrior red shirts. Perhaps most important, contemporary stereotypes of college men were challenged. CSU Stanislaus college men led the way.

Scholarships for Student Writers

I am also pleased to announce the availability of ten $2,000 GROW (Greatness Relies on Writing) scholarships for our undergraduates for the 2015-16 academic year. These come courtesy of the One Purpose scholarship campaign. The scholarships are competitive. Student applicants must be full-time, have a CSU Stanislaus cumulative GPA of 3.25 or higher, and have no more than 150 units. The applications must contain a 500-word essay regarding the importance of writing in life and work in contemporary society; those of successful applicants will be posted on the GROW website. The applications must also be accompanied by a sample of the applicant's course-related writing and letters of support from two faculty members. Please deliver the application packages to the Office of the President, subject: GROW scholarships. Applications are due May 10, 2015. I look forward to reading the best from some of our very best.

Student Success

Hats off to students who are engaging in various regional academic competitions. Lorie Webb and Teri Kelly took first and third place honors, respectively, within the "best undergraduate papers" at the recent Phi Alpha Theta History Honor Society Conference. Eric Nystrom's paper placed third among the
“best graduate papers.” The conference brought together 33 student contestants from Northern California and beyond.

Similarly, first place in the poster competition at the recent West Coast Biological Sciences Undergraduate Research Competition (60 institutions, including CSUs and UCs) went to our own Joseph Trias and Cesar Ramirez. Their work on effects of third-hand smoke exposure is part of a larger project involving 12 students.

I am especially grateful to our faculty and staff members who work with our students to promote the experience and success that they are achieving.

Sincerely,

Joseph F. Sheley, Président