



California State University

**Dominguez Hills**

Office of the President

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Dear Colleagues:

Happy spring! Welcome back to all who had a well deserved spring break. We are half way through the spring semester and roughly two months away from commencement! For all of us at Dominguez Hills our commencement ceremonies are a celebration of the academic accomplishments of our students. On these days, we also rejoice and celebrate the hard work of every individual that works at our University. Each of you are educators who play an important role in student success. Please mark your calendars for our undergraduate and graduate ceremonies, May 21 and 22. Below you will be able to read about the commencement speakers who I am sure will provide inspirational comments.

In this update email, you will read about some of the exciting things happening and yes know of the challenges we are facing. I encourage you to read this update and if you have any comments, thoughts or ideas please send them to me at [president@csudh.edu](mailto:president@csudh.edu):

Points of Pride

While we are reading, hearing and experiencing the hardships of the national and global recession, it is important to take stock of where we are as a community. There are many Points of Pride that I would like to make sure that we are all informed of the good things occurring here!

Here are some of the most recent Points of Pride!

The 2009 Faculty Awards Reception honored thirty-nine faculty members this year for their significant accomplishments as well as celebrated milestone anniversaries, with careers ranging from five to forty years. This year, the four faculty members that were chosen for their significant accomplishments include:

-Dr. Peter Desberg, Professor, Graduate Education

Presidential Outstanding Professor Award

-Dr. Jon Hauss, Associate Professor, English

Lyle E. Gibson Distinguished Teacher Award

-Dr. Mohammad Eyadat, Assistant Professor, Computer Information Systems

Excellence in Service Award

-Dr. Larry Rosen, Professor, Psychology

The Excellence in Research, Scholarship and Creative Activity Award

Further, our faculty continue to provide superb teaching and learning experiences, offer important scholarly and creative works at national and international conferences, conduct and publish research, and offer academically transforming community service experiences. For example, we have two Fulbright Scholars - Nancy Erbe of Negotiation, Conflict Resolution and Peace Building and Kim Trimble, Teacher Education. Professor Matthew Mutchler, Sociology, received a two-year National Institutes of Health grant of \$270,000 for his research on the relationship between substance abuse and HIV with a focus on young gay African American and Latino men. Jonathon Grasse of Music presented his paper, "Revisiting Lou Harrison's Work for American Gamelan Featuring Solo Western Instruments," at the *Music in the 21st Century: Illuminations and Reflections* symposium at San Francisco State University and Richard Malamud, Professor of Accounting and Finance published in the *Houston Business and Tax Law Journal*, "It's Time to Do Something about the Tax Gap." Dr. Thomas Landefeld, Professor, Department of Biology gave career development seminars at several Historically Black Colleges and Universities to students of color choosing a career in science. At our University Art Gallery we hosted the exhibit *Teapots: Object to Subject*, which featured a collection of 50 of the finest entries from the Survey of Contemporary American Teapots. The Art Gallery also hosted the works of art by 30 prominent Los Angeles ceramic artists at an exhibit entitled "Forth and Back: The Migration of Influence in the Work of Phyllis Green and Karen Koblitz." The exhibition was curated by Jim Keville, Art Department. In addition, the Department of Theatre Arts staged its third production of the 2008-2009 season, *The Heiress*.

We have also received donations for the creation of endowed scholarships. A \$225,000 donation was received to create the Winston Hewitt Memorial Endowed Scholarship. Winston Hewitt was a long-time faculty member who was the very first Lyle Gibson Distinguished Teaching Award winner and retired in the 1990's. This gift is the largest single gift we have received since the Katherine Loker gift of 2002. In addition, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors in recognition of former Los Angeles County Supervisor Yvonne B. Burke, who retired this past November, established the Yvonne B. Burke Endowed Scholarship Fund with a \$50,000 gift.

This scholarship is in recognition of Ms. Burke's tenure as County Supervisor since 1992 and her longtime support of CSU Dominguez Hills.

In the area of athletics, CSU Dominguez Hills' Softball team gave head Coach Jim Maier his 300th win and John L. Johnson, men's golf coach and founder of CSU Dominguez Hills Athletics, celebrated 40 years on campus.

### **Building Community**

Our University remains committed to building community both internally and externally, an important endeavor now more than ever. Ensuring that we create an environment that is a welcoming community for everyone, that treats everyone with respect, and ensures that all voices are heard is crucial. It is also important that we build relationships with our external communities in order to create partnerships, acquire champions, and build prospective donors.

#### *Internal Community*

Events have been held throughout the semester focusing our attention on those who have made significant contributions in our history. Throughout the month of February, we honored African American month and one highlight included hosting the Third Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Symposium, entitled, "Obama and the Legacy of King: Dream Deferred or Dream Realized. Panelists included, Professors Salim Faraji and Ms. Jolandra Davis of Africana Studies and student Leah Fortson. During the month of March, in honor of International Women's Month, the Women's Center and Women's Studies Program at CSU Dominguez Hills co-hosted a film series.

The Association of American Colleges and Universities has recently published the latest research on high impact educational activities for undergraduates that deepens students' learning and enhances retention rates. One of the educational activities highlighted and strongly recommended is student-faculty research. We at Dominguez Hills have recognized this fact! Through the Office of Graduate Studies, the Fourth Annual Student Research Day, which had the largest participation of student/faculty research, scholarship and creative activity was held.

The area of Student Affairs is taking the lead on many projects that enhances the environment for our students. At a time when it is very difficult to find employment, our students were able to participate at the CSU Dominguez Hills' Job & Internship Fair where we hosted 58 employers from corporations, nonprofit organizations, and city, county, state and federal agencies who attended with an array of openings. Over 2,000 of our students attended. Further, the Career Development Department is working diligently in expanding and strengthening internship opportunities for our students. Also, the Who's Who among Students in American Universities and Colleges Awards Ceremony was held. This year's event witnessed the largest attendance in its history and students attended proudly with their extended families and significant others. At the Toro's Day Pancake Breakfast event, administrators and staff cooked and served pancakes to

students welcoming them back to the spring semester. Toro Productions brought the Clothesline Project, a grassroots effort to educate students about violence against women to CSU Dominguez Hills. Students decorated tee-shirts to honor or commemorate victims of abuse and displayed them March 3-5 in the Palm Courtyard at the Loker Student Union. Finally, as a community we thanked Dr. Boice Bowman, former Vice President of Student Affairs for his tenure and congratulated him on his retirement. While we celebrated his accomplishments we know that Dr. Bowman will return under the faculty retirement program (FERP) in fall 2009.

Last year I began visiting each academic college in the spring in order to listen to the voices of everyone within the colleges. These visits have begun again and the Vice Presidents and I have already visited the College of Natural and Behavioral Sciences; the other three colleges have been scheduled before the end of the spring semester. I look forward to our discussions.

In addition, I have hosted two student open houses this spring (one in the day and the other in the evening) providing an opportunity for students to visit with me in the President's Office. It was delightful to engage in conversation with the very diverse students who attended. They provided valuable insights and suggestions.

#### *External Community*

I am pleased to report that the games held at the **Home Depot Center** (HDC) on CSU Dominguez Hills on February 2, 2009 occurred without disturbance to our University Community. Because HDC utilized their parking lots only and the attendance was limited, I am happy to share that there were no reported incidents. AEG has now requested to host a *L.A. Galaxy Open Cup* game on **April 7, 2009 at 8:00 p.m.** I have discussed the request with Dr. Munashe Furusa, Chair, Academic Senate, and the Cabinet. Because the game will begin at 8 pm, a time in which our students will be in class, HDC will utilize their parking lots and because of a limited attendance that will not exceed 12,500 spectators, we have agreed to the game on April 7. There will be signage for parking and the attendees for the game will enter through the Avalon Avenue entrance which is their main entrance. I would like to thank Dr. Furusa, the Academic Senate, the University Community, and the AEG staff for continuing to work together in our partnership.

Together, all of us are either bringing more groups to our Campus or visiting and engaging in projects with external groups at their sites. This year we continued our participation in the annual CSU Super Sunday event. As you may know, Super Sunday is a way the CSU's connect with and inform African American students and their families about what it takes to get into college. I was joined by outreach staff and spoke at the New Philadelphia Baptist Church at their Sunday service. The church congregation welcomed us with open arms. The Department of Foreign Languages hosted the International Symposium of Hispanic Literature, *The Role of the Writer in the Hispanic World*. Scholars and participants from around the world attended the

symposium. The Campus Community welcomed world renowned Artist Synthia Saint James to CSU Dominguez Hills. Ms. Saint James gave a brief talk on her art followed by a reception in her honor. The California Faculty Association, CSU Dominguez Hills' Chapter, hosted Dr. Gary Rhoades, the General Secretary of the American Association of University Professors who presented an excellent and timely talk entitled, *The Necessity of Shared Governance for the Future of Higher Education*. Some of you may know that we are the only college in Southern California with an undergraduate degree in labor studies. Our campus will host a Labor Social Justice Fair on April 30, 2009 in recognition of May Day. Workshops will cover the Employee Free Choice Act, careers in labor and other topics. The event is free and open to the public and will take place in and around the Loker Student Union.

I hope you also saw the excellent coverage in the [L.A. Times](#) that featured L.A.'s Prom Closet, a non-profit organization, that invited 100 young women from around LA County to Dominguez Hills to choose their prom dress from donated formal dresses. They transformed a conference room into a giant fitting room overflowing with donated formal dresses and provided important workshops.

Samuel Joey Alleyne, an M.P.A. student at CSU Dominguez Hills and associate production manager and dance instructor for Positive Images of Self Expression (PISE), collaborated with Dr. Gayle Ball Parker, Director of University Outreach to bring a production of "High School Drama," a show created by PISE and sponsored by the City of Carson Fine Arts & Historical Commission, to local high school students in the University Theatre. The objective is to encourage enrollment for both the Carson-based nonprofit and the university.

We also are inviting trustees and Vice Chancellors to visit our Campus and meet with the students, Executive Committee of the Senate and the administrators. The two newest Vice Chancellors, Dr. Ben Quillian, Finance and Administration, and Dr. Gayle Brooks, Human Relations were hosted. In addition, Trustees Linscheid, Fortune and Carter were recently guests on our Campus.

The University Advancement team has also been busy ensuring that we continue to strengthen relationships with our elected officials. Thus, we were present at the swearing in ceremony of Mayor Dear and the Council and I was honored to swear in Councilman Mike Gibson. The City of Carson also hosted its annual Cesar Chavez Day festival at Dominguez Park and I presented the keynote address. We also were part of CSU Hill Day in Washington, DC where we discussed federal funding and issues for the CSU. We are preparing for our CSU day in Sacramento.

Further, the Advancement team is working on establishing strong relationships with our alumni. We have hired a new Director of Alumni Affairs, Porsche Gordon, who comes to us from Howard University. Also an alumna of ours, Paula Moore, Executive Director of the Friends of Cabrillo Marine Aquarium hosted a reception at her home in Palos Verdes where approximately 100 alumni and friends from those communities joined us to learn more about CSU Dominguez

Hills. This program was also attended by the local Chamber of Commerce and city governments. In addition, Dr. Johan Eliasson, CSU Dominguez Hills alumnus, presented his latest research on *European Expectations of the Obama Administration*; sponsored by the Department of Political Science and the Association of Political Science Students.

We continue to ensure that we are building relationships with influential groups in Los Angeles. Chivas U.S.A. met with us to enhance relationships and ensure joint partnerships. I met with Antonia Hernandez, President & CEO of California Community Foundation to foster a partnership with her organization. I also presented at the Community College Leadership Summit, at the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Education Opportunity Programs (EOP) Symposium, at the CSU Northridge Leadership Forum on Women's Issues, and attended the California Latina History Day Conference in downtown Los Angeles. Nationally, I was invited to meet with the Lumina Foundation with a select group of presidents to discuss the importance of institutions that serve underrepresented students and invited to submit a proposal under an RFP for a grant to enhance the graduation rates of these students.

### **Enrollment Management and Planning**

The strategic planning process continues. A series of 11 town hall events took place on Campus from February 23, 2009 through March 3, 2009 to collect feedback from students, faculty, staff and members of the community as to what should be the core values, mission and goals for CSU Dominguez Hills, and how they will serve the community and our students into the 21st century.

The Strategic Planning synthesizers met over the course of three days (March 23-26, 2009) to analyze what various communities have told us about their aspirations for CSU Dominguez Hills. From the feedback of 11 campus/community forums and over 600 surveys, the synthesizers will complete the first draft of the Strategic Framework. For more information see the strategic planning website at [www.csudh.edu/strategicplanning](http://www.csudh.edu/strategicplanning).

Another accomplishment that we must applaud is that this year we met our enrollment target! Congratulations to the Enrollment Management team and everyone involved! This is the first time we have done this since 2002. What a wonderful accomplishment for the entire University. We can state proudly that CSU Dominguez Hills is meeting and exceeding targets. We recently exceeded the Chancellor's Office annualized target of 9,349 FTE by 1.3% with a total of 9,471 FTE, exceeding last year's census total by 354 FTE. In addition, we have over 12,900 students registered for classes this spring. Lastly, we have more students this spring than this past fall and we have already admitted over 8,200 students for fall, 4,200 more than last time this year. It is extremely important now that we not only enroll new students but also **retain** our students. We know how to do this; we set high standards and provide the students the tools to reach those high standards. All of us who understand enrollment management know that it is easier to retain and graduate students to meet our targets rather than just depend on bringing in new students.

## **Financial Stability**

The Governor released his budget proposal for fiscal year 2009/10 which permanently cuts the CSU budget by \$66.3 million. As our Campus takes an additional \$50 million reduction in 2009, including our 2008 cut as well as a portion of the structural deficit, *we must reduce our general fund budget by \$3.8 million 2009/10*. This represents more than a 6.5% divisional baseline reduction.

We have started the budget planning process with the Vice Presidents while utilizing the work of last year's University Budget Committee. As we move forward, I will continue to communicate a transparent budget process so we can work together to address our significant budget reductions.

Again, given what we know now, our highest priorities will remain the same: mission-critical services which include, a robust class schedule, retention of tenure and tenure-track faculty, and essential student support services.

In order to continue to communicate with everyone, we will be unveiling a website in the next couple of weeks that will hold all current budget communications from CSU Dominguez Hills as well as the Chancellor's Office.

**Attached you will also find the latest communication that comes from the Chancellor's Office.**

## **Final Thoughts**

I end this email update thanking each of you for all you do for our students and our University. We are facing tough financial times throughout the world and we will be affected by this new reality. However, I remain optimistic that if we stay focused on students and their success, our mission and doing what we do best we will come out stronger than ever. I remain committed to clear communication, collaboration and transparency. While after consultation, decisions will have to be made, yet I will ensure that you will remain informed as to why certain decisions were made. Thank you for continuing to enhance the lives of every student that enters our doors and enhancing our working relationship. I am honored that I am serving such a wonderful University.