TO: College of Science and Mathematics - New Students

FROM: Philip S. Bailey, Dean

SUBJECT: Alcohol

DATE: August 22, 2014

CC:

As your dean, I want to be positive and encouraging as you enter Cal Poly as a new student this fall. However, excessive alcohol consumption by students is a serious problem confronting American universities, and I feel I should discuss this with our new students. Cal Poly attracts some of the brightest students in California and the United States and enjoys a national reputation for academic excellence and success. Despite this, Cal Poly has the same challenges with alcohol as other universities. Here are some national statistics describing problems of college students related to alcohol consumption:

- 1,700 college students die from alcohol-related accidents.
- 599,000 college students are injured while under the influence of alcohol.
- 696,000 students are assaulted by another student who's been drinking.
- 97,000 are victims of alcohol-related sexual assault or date rape.
- 110,000 are arrested for alcohol-related violations.
- About 25 percent of college students report missing class, falling behind, doing poorly on exams or papers, and receiving lower grades overall because of drinking.

As serious and troubling as the statistics above are, they also reveal that a large majority of college students do not have these problems. My advice to you:

- Think! Do not succumb to peer pressure or the excitement of a moment.
- If you drink, drink moderately and act responsibly.
- Be safe! Make sure you are always in control of yourself. Avoid being with people who are not in control of themselves.
- Remember, most students act responsibly and treat others with respect. This is the group with which you want to be identified.

I wish you the best as you begin your first year at Cal Poly and will support you in any way I can. I hope you will take full advantage of the many opportunities for personal and intellectual growth that Cal Poly has to offer. Good luck and please be healthy and safe.