New Vaccination Clinic Opens to Campus Community
On April 29, Rite Aid opened a COVID-19 vaccination clinic in UU 220 open to all students, faculty, staff and local community members. Visit https://riteaid.reportsonline.com/rsched/program/CASLO2021/Patient/Advisory to register and use the ZIP code 93407 for on-campus appointments. Last week, the President's Office announced that fully vaccinated students can request an exemption from the ongoing COVID-19 testing program requirements. All students have the opportunity to upload their completed COVID-19 vaccine records into the COVID Info tab of the student portal to request the exemption. After the upload, students who are two weeks past their final vaccine dose will no longer be required to test beginning May 6. The Health Center’s Student Vaccination Clinic continues to schedule first-dose appointments for students who want to be vaccinated through Campus Health and Wellbeing, and second-dose appointments will be available soon. First- and second-dose vaccine appointments are also available throughout SLO County at county clinics, local hospitals and pharmacies through the My Turn appointment system (https://myturn.ca.gov/) and vaccinefinder.org. Getting vaccinated is free, quick and does not require information about immigration status. See a summary of recent vaccination announcements, links for making an appointment, and transportation resources at https://coronavirus.calpoly.edu/covid-19-vaccine.

Vaccine Fact Check: Vaccine Development Technology
This week’s COVID-19 Vaccine Fact Check addresses a myth that the vaccines were developed too quickly using brand new, untested technology. No, says immunologist and biological sciences Professor Candace Winstead. “Decades of behind-the-scenes research went into developing the vaccines we are using today, which is part of the reason the currently authorized vaccines were able to be developed on time and be so effective. The Johnson & Johnson vaccine uses a viral vector platform that was developed and previously validated for Ebola virus vaccine responses. The Pfizer/BioNTech and Moderna mRNA vaccines would not have been developed without the pioneering work of Dr. Katalin Karikó and her collaborators originating in the 1990s. This group did the groundbreaking mundane work to make the notoriously unstable mRNA molecules less fragile. They, and others, also determined how to design these mRNAs to dampen the initial host response so they could be used clinically. Both the viral vector and mRNA platforms are quite flexible and can easily pivot to accommodate the generation of booster shots for the variants, should they be needed.” Read a full Q&A about how vaccines work at https://www.calpoly.edu/news/ask-expert-how-do-covid-19-vaccines-actually-work.

Recycling Training Available for Campus Community
Student Zero Waste Ambassadors have developed a brief recycling training to present at staff meetings, student trainings or safety tailgate sessions. The zero-waste training is a short (15-20-minute) training session held over Zoom and led by Zero Waste Ambassadors for faculty, staff and student groups to learn how to effectively recycle and compost on campus. Those interested in holding a training session for a team, department or club can email czerowaste@calpoly.edu. California Assembly Bill 2812 requires state agencies offer employees training in recycling at least once per year.
Cal Poly Named One of The Most Promising Places to Work in Student Affairs for 2021
For the third straight year — and fourth year since 2017 — Cal Poly has been named one of the Most Promising Places to Work in Student Affairs by ACPA-College Student Educators International and Diverse: Issues in Higher Education. The university previously earned the distinction in 2017, 2019 and 2020. Cal Poly Student Affairs is among 30 student affairs divisions throughout the U.S. recognized in 2021 for its commitment toward workplace and staffing practices that promote diversity, equity and inclusion; for providing professional development opportunities and family-friendly practices and policies for staff; and other attributes. The university is one of four California State University (CSU) campuses to receive the distinction this year, alongside CSU Channel Islands, Humboldt State University and Sonoma State University. The full list of recognized universities will appear in the June 10 magazine edition of Diverse: Issues in Higher Education.

Volunteers Needed for Spring Graduate Recognition Events
The Commencement Office is looking for faculty and staff volunteers to take part in celebrating the Class of 2021 during in-person Graduate Recognition Events on June 12 and 13 in Spanos Stadium. Volunteers will have the opportunity to participate in various roles during the events such as checking in guests, handing out programs, and leading students to the stage as they hear their names announced. Help create one of the most memorable moments in a student’s college experience and sign up today at https://survey.alchemer.com/s3/6283440/Spring-Commencement-2021-Student-Staff-Sign-Up. In addition to faculty and staff volunteers, the Commencement Office is looking to recruit student workers. If you have students in your area looking for leadership experience, encourage them to sign up. They will be compensated at $16 an hour. Questions? Contact the Commencement Office at commencement@calpoly.edu or ext. 6-1600.

Anti-Asian Racism and Mental Health Training to be Offered Thursday, May 6
The campus community is invited to attend the Anti-Asian Racism and Mental Healthy Training workshop, which will educate participants about ways to disrupt racism and how to provide support to people who have experienced harm and harassment. This event is presented by the National Asian Pacific Islander Mental Health Association and sponsored by Campus Health and Wellbeing and the Ethnic Studies Department. To join this event, register in advance at https://calpoly.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUpcumppj8iGtCIDMBHLJrLGU_66sXAnPZO. Questions? Contact ethnicstudies@calpoly.edu.

CLA Black Lives Matter Speaker Series Continues May 7
Join the College of Liberal Arts at noon Friday, May 7, for the next event in the Black Lives Matter Speaker Series, “From Reproductive Choice to Reproductive Justice,” with Dorothy Roberts, a leading voice for reproductive freedom who has helped to transform advocacy for women’s health and rights. In this talk, she will explain how the mainstream rhetoric of “choice” has privileged women who have the ability to choose from reproductive options that are unavailable to poor and low-income women, especially women of color. This event is free and open to the public. Learn more and register at https://cla.calpoly.edu/BLM.

Nominations for Community Service Awards Due May 16
Nominations for the 35th annual Cal Poly Community Service Awards are due by before midnight Sunday, May 16. Awards for the categories of individual faculty, staff and student contributions, along with student organizations and community partner of the year, will be bestowed on those making extraordinary impacts to address community needs. Due to COVID-19 guidelines, honorees will first be notified by email before awards and written recognition are delivered to them in lieu of a traditional in-person ceremony. More information about the history of the awards, details on each category, and a link to the nomination form is at https://serviceinaction.calpoly.edu/awards. Anyone with questions about the nomination process can email the Center for Service in Action at serviceinaction@calpoly.edu.

Replacement Program for Off-Campus Fuel Purchases Coming Soon
The off-campus fuel program known as Voyager is being replaced, and current cards will expire June 30. Employees and departments with an off-campus fuel card must take immediate action to avoid any gap in service. Instructions to apply for a new Fleet Fuel Card as well as policies and procedures can be found by visiting https://afd.calpoly.edu/facilities/services/fleet-services and clicking on Fuel. Completed applications can be returned by email at fuelcard@calpoly.edu and should be submitted no later than May 14 to ensure continuity of service. Questions? Contact the Fleet Fuel Card administrators by emailing fuelcard@calpoly.edu.