

# California State Polytechnic University, Pomona

## Investigations of Improper Activities by State Employees, February 2007 Through June 2007

### INVESTIGATION I2007-0671 (REPORT I2007-2), SEPTEMBER 2007

#### *California State Polytechnic University, Pomona's response as of August 2008*

We investigated and substantiated an allegation that an employee with the California State Polytechnic University, Pomona (Pomona), inappropriately used university computers to view pornographic Web sites.

#### **Finding: The employee misused state resources to engage in improper activities.**

We asked Pomona to assist us in the investigation, and we substantiated the allegation. Pomona found that the official repeatedly used university computers to view Web sites containing pornographic material. State laws prohibit employees from using public resources, such as time and equipment, for personal purposes. In addition, these laws require employees to devote their full time and attention to their duties, and prohibit individuals employed by the State from using a state-issued computer to access, view, download, or otherwise obtain obscene matter. Specifically, Pomona found that the official viewed approximately 1,400 pornographic images on two university computers during several weeks in 2006 and also from February to May 2007. Pomona was unable to review the official's complete Internet usage because the settings on the official's main computer only allowed for a two-month retention period of Internet activity. When interviewed, the official admitted to viewing pornographic Web sites regularly using university computers.

#### ***Pomona's Action: Partial corrective action taken.***

In January 2008 Pomona stated that its academic senate approved an interim Appropriate Use Policy, which states that administrators, faculty, and staff must not use computers for personal purposes. Pomona reported that to become official, the interim policy must go through a meet-and-confer process with the unions for staff and faculty.

In August 2008 Pomona reported that it met with the two employee unions in July 2008 to start the meet-and-confer process. Pomona stated that the unions requested changes to Pomona's interim policy and that all parties must agree to the changes before the policy becomes official. We are concerned about the length of time Pomona has taken to institute a policy in response to an official accessing pornographic Web sites because one year after we issued our report, Pomona had not yet finalized its policy on the appropriate use of university equipment.

#### ***Investigative Highlight . . .***

*An employee at the California State Polytechnic University, Pomona, admitted, when interviewed, to viewing pornographic Web sites regularly using university computers.*



