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The Powercat and Pacific dancers rejoice in the Tigers' upcoming return to the WCC.

Photo by Randall Gee

Doing Our Part

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A Proud Tradition

By Pamela A. Eibeck, President

The 2011–12 academic year has been an incredibly successful one. We dedicated the Alex and Jeri Vereschagin Alumni House. We purchased a new campus in San Francisco in the South of Market district. We embarked on a bold new strategic planning process. And we announced that University of the Pacific will soon rejoin the West Coast Conference (WCC)!

We look forward to joining forces with Brigham Young University, Gonzaga, Loyola Marymount, Pepperdine, University of Portland, St. Mary's, University of San Diego, University of San Francisco and Santa Clara University.

Becoming a member of the WCC is a historic homecoming for Pacific. Sixty years ago we joined a group of like-minded institutions to found the West Coast Conference.

Each of the founding schools prized excellence in teaching and learning and a holistic approach to education. All had a rich history in the West, a beautiful campus and an abiding love for athletic competition.

Six decades later, our values have endured and so have those of the WCC. Like Pacific, the current members of the West Coast Conference are known for their dedication to high-quality academics and athletic success. All have religious roots that encourage us to bring about positive change in the world. And all are forces to be reckoned with, whether in the classroom, on the court or on the playing field. The high quality of WCC athletics and their extensive media footprint will challenge us to maintain and enhance the quality of Tiger athletics — a challenge we happily accept!

The WCC is indeed a natural fit for Pacific. Joining this conference will impact the entire University. In my career as a scholar, educator and university administrator, I have witnessed how athletic competition unites a university family and electrifies a community. Competing with similar, teaching-centered private universities will help us focus our experience and our identity as a place that celebrates scholarship, learning and competition. Not just because we're playing games against these schools, but because we interact with each other on a regular basis as peers and competitors — even rivals — in a way that transcends the court and the playing field.

Of course, joining the WCC means saying good-bye to the Big West. For the last 41 years, Pacific has been



a proud member of the Big West Conference. I thank the member institutions for many seasons of excellent competition and generous sportsmanship.

On July 1, 2013, Pacific comes home to the West Coast Conference. I look forward to seeing the entire Pacific family back on campus to cheer us on against our new rivals in the coming years.

Go, Tigers!

Visit my website at Pacific.edu/President or find me on Facebook.



I welcome your ideas at president@pacific.edu.



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