

# **\* NEWS RELEASE \***

## **CSUMB STUDENT SENTENCED TO PRISON FOR PLEA OF NO CONTEST TO BURGLARY AND SEXUAL ASSAULT**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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Monterey County District Attorney Dean D. Flippo announced today that Ruben Rodriguez, age 22, was sentenced to the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation for a sexual assault that occurred on May 18, 2016, the last day of the spring semester at California State University at Monterey Bay (CSUMB). Rodriguez had previously entered no contest pleas to one count of first degree burglary and one count of forcible digital penetration on June 19, 2018 before Judge Julie R. Culver.

In the early morning hours of June 19, at a student housing building called the “Promontory”, the defendant removed a window screen to gain entry into the victim’s ground floor apartment which she shared with three other students. He entered the victim’s bedroom, removed his clothing, climbed into her bed and used his hands to commit the sexual assault. The victim fought Rodriguez off her and pushed him out of the apartment. Undeterred the defendant returned approximately one hour later and again made entry through the same ground floor window, went to the victim’s bedroom and told her he “couldn’t resist”. The victim immediately tried to alert a roommate and the defendant fled.

The crime was reported to CSUMB police dispatch who referred the victim and her family to the Marina Police Department since the “Promontory” Residence Hall, though operated by CSUMB, fell under the City of Marina for law enforcement purposes. CSUMB authorities cooperated with the investigation by obtaining and relinquishing video surveillance recordings of the outside of the “Promontory” which showed the defendant’s entrance and exit into the apartment building that morning.

Marina Police Department detectives determined the defendant was a CSUMB student who had left campus the day following the assault. He was located with the assistance of the U.S. Marshall’s Office in Chico, California where was arrested on July 6, 2016.

CSUMB Title IX Office assigned a Title IX advocate to support the victim, provided referrals for counseling and launched their own investigation which concluded that the defendant’s acts constituted sexual misconduct, sexual harassment and stalking which violated California State University Executive Order 1097.

During the sentencing hearing today, the victim, with her family by her side, described how her life was changed forever because of the defendant’s assault. She described thinking of the assault every day, how she must worry about walking alone, and is fearful that an intruder would again enter into her residence in the middle of the night. Jane Doe stated she does not see herself as a victim because

that would give Rodriguez power over her to this day. She described herself as a survivor and that she does not wish him harm but is hopeful that he is aware how wrong his actions were that night and will learn never to treat a woman's rejection of him as a joke. Judge Culver praised the victim for her remarkable strength and sentenced the defendant to fourteen years in the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation. Additionally, the Court imposed a ten-year restraining order protecting the victim and a lifetime requirement to register as a sexual offender lifetime registration.

The case was investigated by Detectives Cox and Barocio of Marina Police Department and District Attorney Investigator Oliver Minnig formerly with Marina Police Department.