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# Professor who sent controversial links via e-mails will keep his job

**Robert Anglen**

The Arizona Republic

Jun. 23, 2007 12:00 AM

A Maricopa Community Colleges math professor who was threatened with termination for sending college employees an e-mail linking to a conservative Web site will keep his job.

College officials Friday announced a settlement with Walter Kehowski, who made national headlines this year after he was placed on administrative leave for sending the e-mail linking to politician Pat Buchanan's Web site and a transcript of a Thanksgiving proclamation by George Washington.

Under the terms of the agreement, the college will allow Kehowski to return to the classroom in the fall. His use of the district e-mail system will be restricted.

The two sides agreed not to talk about the settlement, said a statement from district spokeswoman Chris Chesrown.

Kehowski, who has sent controversial e-mails in the past, was placed on paid leave from his job at Glendale Community College after five employees complained that the November e-mail expressed anti-immigration sentiments.

Kehowski was suspended without pay for five days in September 2005 for sending out similar messages.

In 2003, Kehowski e-mailed employees several Internet links that contained statements about Hispanics.

Titles on the Web sites included, "Mexicans Think U.S. Belongs to Them!" and "Mexican Double Standard."

As a result, a Latino civil rights group filed a federal lawsuit against the colleges over what they described as Kehowski's racially charged messages being allowed to go out unchecked on the college computer system.

College administrators said at the time that Kehowski had not violated any school rules and that his right to use the computer was protected.

Chancellor Rufus Gasper notified Kehowski in March that he was going to recommend his dismissal to the college governing board.

He said the e-mail links to Pat Buchanan's site and the 1789 Thanksgiving proclamation violated the district's electronic communications policy, which prohibits using district e-mail for private or personal matters.

Gasper's letter said Kehowski continued to disregard district policies despite previous sanctions and directives.

A national free-speech group, Foundation for Individual Rights in Education, which took up Kehowski's cause, demanded that the college exonerate him.

"This case would be almost funny if it wasn't having such serious implications for the professor's life and livelihood," foundation president Greg Lukianoff said in an earlier interview.

**Reporter Anne Ryman contributed to this article.**

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- [Marqel7625 | Profile](#)
- Posted: Jun 23, 2007 at 6:41 AM
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Glad he is keeping his job -- but people please learn personal emails should be sent and read at home to only those that a personally your friend :)

- [all4fun | Profile](#)
- Posted: Jun 23, 2007 at 8:35 AM
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Why don't these school officials spend time regulating and enforcing realistic issues at schools, such as illegals receiving in state tuition! Here is a teacher that is exercising his right to free speech and this is the result. Our society's priorities are completely out of wack. But the minute one of the MANY Mexican support groups gets involved, fire the racist (inappropriate term)! This state and country have turned into the laughing stock of the world. America---what a joke!!!

- [laeva65 | Profile](#)
- Posted: Jun 23, 2007 at 9:19 AM
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Email systems at work are for work related matters. It's that simple. The fact I happen to agree with Mr Kehowski's political beliefs to some degree makes no difference to me. That kind of stuff is inappropriate - just as any leftwing mush would be - on the computer system at work.

- [djmixmode | Profile](#)
- Posted: Jun 23, 2007 at 10:22 AM
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Oh my god! What a joke that anyone would actually be offended by the truth! Anyone who DOESN'T think mexicans are taking over and that there is a double standard for them needs to wake the heck up and smell some mexican feces. Sorry chancellor and latino civil rights group, THE TRUTH HURTS. Violating policy on prohibiting email being used for personal use is one thing, but complaining and eventually threatening with dismissal on grounds for racially charged statements is INSANE and should be brought to court. Im glad F.I.R.E. decided to step in, our right to free speech needs to be defended! Oh and one more thing, the latino group needs to go to hell with their beliefs. If they don't like it, go back to mexico. God this pisses me off.

- [Julie9673 | Profile](#)

- Posted: Jun 23, 2007 at 3:17 PM
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he posted a speech by george Washington; then like any good educated person posted where he got the speech from. Okay, so he got it from Buchanan's web site, but he didn't write for them to go and read the web site! Its called "listing your sources". If you dont know that then don't worry, because you won't be one of his students anyway. And if you hit a link to Pat Buchanan and are SHOCKED at the nationalist, anti-immigration stance then you need to enroll in a few more classes. But, what else can we expect- our new 'politically correct' society is setting out to rewrite history! K-12th grade students no longer will learn about Uncle Toms cabin, the use of the dreaded N word as the way to discuss 'african-americans' how the US government treated Japanese decendants during WW2. Oh, no we can't talk about the bad parts of history; thanks jacka\$\$ teachers!!! Liberal Arts Majors sure are liberal with the truth.

- [Julie9673 | Profile](#)
- Posted: Jun 23, 2007 at 3:17 PM
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- [Ben3477 | Profile](#)
- Posted: Jun 23, 2007 at 3:49 PM
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I don't see the problem here, if this guy was sending out antiwar and anti-Bush emails, we never would have heard about it. He only made headlines because he is an anomily in the teaching world, a conservative. I am a conservative and I work in a very liberal industry which makes it very hard not to make a comment when I see something that I know is not right, but everybody is doing it anyway. Oh well, I guess in America today, it is screw the laws and what is right and do what ever feels good as long as it does not offend anybody except Christians and patriots.

- [djmixmode | Profile](#)
- Posted: Jun 23, 2007 at 11:48 PM
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Hey Julie and Ben, we need more people like you out there. Amen to everything you all said!

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