The current workshop is more than a building: it’s my Cal Poly home. Even as the only woman on the Baja team, I was immediately welcomed. I spent 350 hours in the workshop my freshman year. As a shop tech now, I want other students to be fearless!

— KATHRYN WEBB, MECHANICAL ENGINEERING STUDENT

MEET THE FUTURE:
The Engineering Projects Center
Page 16
The College of Engineering has advanced on many fronts this year thanks to the dedication of faculty and staff, and the generous support of alumni, friends and corporate partners. We are so grateful for this support! These gifts provide the resources we need to keep up with the supersonic pace of change in our field.

I confess that what wakes me up at night is the question of how to keep our curricula relevant and learning environments current with the relentlessly changing landscape of today’s technology!

Thankfully, we have corporate partners that help keep us up-to-date — and, more importantly, help ensure the qualifications and success of our graduates as they enter evolving workplaces and industries. Keysight and Northrop Grumman — highlighted in this annual report — are two of the 195 corporations and foundations that provided gifts to the college this year.

With the $1.3 million in software and hardware donated by Keysight, Cal Poly students and researchers will be at the forefront of the transition from 4G to 5G communications that will take place in the next decade. Talk about relevant!

Likewise, Northrop Grumman partners with the College of Engineering in fostering a progressive, hands-on learning environment that impacts our students during their time on campus and long after they graduate. The company supports key focus areas, including our cybersecurity program, the Autonomous Flight Lab and student unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) team, a collaborative UAV project with Cal Poly Pomona, and faculty applied research. We’ve also received help with initiatives that promote diversity, a universitywide priority.

These industry partnerships illustrate our path to the future: Incorporate Learn by Doing into emerging areas and into new ways of teaching and learning. Develop the infrastructure that supports new technologies and allows students to acquire skills and familiarity with processes, practices and platforms they will encounter in industry. And make sure that Learn by Doing projects and pedagogy include teaming and risk taking.

In fact, because we fervently understand that Learn by Doing is both our history and our future, we’ve begun a building campaign that will set the stage for a renewal and transformation of our Learn by Doing lab and shop foundation: the Engineering Projects Center, a state-of-the-art, hands-on facility that will serve as the gateway to the College of Engineering.

You can read more about the Engineering Projects Center (EPC) on page 16.

We hope you will take an active part in realizing the EPC. After all, we’re confident that you’ve either taken your Learn by Doing problem-solving into your own professional work, or you recognize the vital mark that this ethos has made — via Cal Poly Engineering — on industry, the economy and our society.

Learn by Doing is your legacy. We invite you to be a part of the next chapter.
I am new to the role of chair of the Dean’s Advisory Council, but my history with Cal Poly goes back to the 1970s when my dad earned his bachelor’s and M.B.A. degrees. He went on to work in university administration, ending his career as vice president for administration and finance.

Growing up, I was touched by Cal Poly in many ways, from Dad’s employment to enjoying Dean Phil Bailey’s magic shows at Open House to having Cal Poly mentors volunteer with my Boy Scout troop.

When I became a student, I entered into Cal Poly life through groups like Associated Students Inc., where I served as president and board member, and the Engineering Student Council. I benefited from encouragement by then-Dean Peter Y. Lee, who valued the “whole engineer,” combining technical expertise with leadership skills. I always say I earned two degrees at Cal Poly — one in engineering and one in leadership.

These dual degrees have served me well, and when I returned to town after earning my law degree, I re-engaged with Cal Poly, serving on the Cal Poly Corporation Board and then as president of the Alumni Association. I’ve been a member of the Dean’s Advisory Council since 2011.

I guess you’d say I am highly motivated to support Cal Poly! There are a number of reasons behind my involvement.

On a personal level, I derive a lot of pleasure in serving the institution. It’s fun! And there are so many ways to connect and contribute to student success: You can mentor clubs needing professional expertise; give to the on-campus food pantry; recycle business wardrobe items with Career Services for students needing interview outfits; join your local Cal Poly Alumni Association chapter; come back to campus for Homecoming; support student clubs like Engineers Without Borders or PolyHouse; welcome freshmen by participating in New Student Move-in Day. The list is endless.

As an alumnus, I have benefited greatly from this incredible university. My diploma is a valuable credential and asset. The time, talent, dollars and advocacy I lend to Cal Poly adds to the value of my own degree and to those of generations of graduates going forward.

Finally, from a global perspective, I believe strongly that we have a duty to support education. Education lifts our whole society; it’s vitally important to the future of our planet. Because of education — and especially higher education — individuals not only better their own lives, but they acquire the deeper thinking skills that makes them better citizens and better able to participate in and contribute to their communities.

We all have an opportunity to create a better world — I hope you’ll seek ways to give back to Cal Poly! Simply ask how you can help. There’s a place for everyone, all alumni, parents and friends, who have willing hearts.

I always say I earned two degrees at Cal Poly — one in engineering and one in leadership.
Consistent with giving trends in higher education nationally, the number of gifts to the College of Engineering has remained steady while the gift total has increased.

<table>
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<th>College of Engineering Donors</th>
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<tr>
<td># Donors</td>
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<tr>
<td># Gifts</td>
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<td>Gift Total*</td>
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*Gift total includes cash, in-kind gifts, bequests and pledges.

Cal Poly Foundation Endowment

Fiscal year 2016 investment returns for the endowment were slightly down, consistent with globally diversified portfolios. U.S. large company stocks and bonds earned low single-digit returns this fiscal year, and other assets generated negative results.

Endowment Impact

The Cal Poly Endowment has paid out more than $35.1 million over the past five academic years directly benefiting university programs, faculty development and student scholarships.
For the fourth consecutive year, Cal Poly College of Engineering was named the nation’s top state-funded undergraduate engineering program by U.S. News & World Report. For 23 years, Cal Poly as a whole has been rated the best public-master’s university in the West.

Among state-funded universities, Cal Poly ranked number one for its civil, electrical and mechanical engineering programs.

The college welcomed 1,246 new freshmen, who presented an average high school GPA of 4.08, average SAT’s of 686 (math) and 633 (reading), and 30 ACT. Total enrollment included 5,692 undergraduates and 390 graduate students.

The College of Engineering dedicated the Haas Netshape Laboratory and the Haas Advanced Manufacturing Laboratory.

Donors to the College of Engineering made gifts and pledges totaling $15,412,696.

Cal Poly’s regenerative medicine program received a five-year, $2.6 million grant from the California Institute for Regenerative Medicine (CIRM).

A donation of a rolling road and test section from All American Racers and a gift from the Raintree Foundation helped transform Cal Poly’s Low-Speed Wind Tunnel.

The college dedicated the Keysight Advanced Communications Laboratory in recognition of a $1.3 million technology gift from Keysight Technologies.

The Human Motion Biomechanics program received grants totaling $863,600 from the W.M. Keck Foundation and the U.S. Army Medical Research Acquisition for biomechanics research.

Engineering Possibilities in College (EPIC) summer camp collaborated with the Migrant Education Program to enable participation by 79 children of migrant California farmworkers.

A realized $500,000 bequest made by Mary King helped assure the future for the heating, ventilation, air-conditioning and refrigerating program.

The College of Engineering’s Applications in Autonomous Flight program received a Puma unmanned aircraft system from AeroVironment Inc.

Cal Poly and Munich University of Applied Sciences expanded their partnership to include joint teaching, learning and research activities.

Cal Poly was found to be one of the top computer science schools in the U.S. for graduates’ earning potential according to the compensation specialist firm PayScale.

General Engineering and Biomedical Engineering became two independent programs.

STUDENT SUCCESS

College of Engineering student awards went to: Nathaniel Carson (Electrical Engineering), Academic Excellence Award; Katherine Chambers (Environmental Engineering), Outstanding Senior for Contributions to the College; Jocelyn De Leon (Liberal Arts and Engineering Studies), Outstanding Senior for Service to the Community; Melanie Thatcher (Materials Engineering), Outstanding Senior for Service to the Community; and Carlos Flores, Student Volunteer of the Year.

Student startups Higea Inc. and Mantis Composites were the first Cal Poly teams to receive grants from VentureWell, a nonprofit that supports innovation and entrepreneurship.

TEAM HIGHLIGHTS

For the fifth consecutive year, the Cal Poly Society of Women Engineers (SWE) earned the Gold Award as a top student chapter in the nation. Cal Poly SWE also won first place in the Team Tech competition.

For the 53rd time, the Cal Poly Rose Float earned special honors at the Tournament of Roses Parade — the Lathrop K. Leishman Trophy for the most beautiful non-commercial entry.
The Cal Poly Institute of Transportation Engineers was named the top student chapter.

Cal Poly won first place in ASHRAE’s Applied Engineering Challenge, the second win in a row by a team from the Cal Poly’s Heating, Ventilating, Air Conditioning and Refrigerating concentration.

Cal Poly won the efficiency challenge at the Parker Chainless Challenge with a new clutch design for a bicycle propelled by fluid power.

Cal Poly students swept the Residential Energy Modeling Competition sponsored by the California Association of Building Energy Consultants.

Cal Poly won the 2016 Premier Project Award from Engineers Without Borders.

Cal Poly Engineering students played a key role in the design and construction of the INhouse, a 1,000-square-foot, solar-powered home that finished third overall at the U.S. Department of Energy Solar Decathlon 2015.

In its highest finish ever, Cal Poly placed second overall at the American Society of Civil Engineers National Student Steel Bridge Competition.

Cal Poly’s Supermileage Team placed third overall and was the first American team across the finish line at the Shell Eco-marathon.

**FACULTY ACHIEVEMENTS**

Frederick W. Mowrer, director of Cal Poly’s Fire Protection Engineering Programs, was awarded the 2015 John L. Bryan Mentoring Award by the Society of Fire Protection Engineering.

The Don & Paula Heye Award for Outstanding Club Advisor was presented to Garrett Hall (Civil Engineering). The Don & Paula Heye Award for Outstanding Teaching was presented to Gary Perks, lecturer in the Electrical Engineering Department.

Electrical Engineering Professor Taufik visited 19 universities in Indonesia to promote the DC House project, which can bring electricity to people living in remote areas.

Materials Engineering Professor Linda Vanasupa won the Women in Engineering ProActive Network Leader in Engineering Education Award.

Jose Macedo, chair of the Industrial and Manufacturing Engineering Department, was named a Fellow by the Institute of Industrial and Systems Engineering.

Mechanical Engineering Professors Brian Self and James Widmann received Learn by Doing Scholar Awards for their research on “Inquiry-Based Learning Activities in Dynamics.”
Computer Science
Professor David Janzen was named a Faculty Fellow by the Cal Poly Center for Innovation & Entrepreneurship.

Environmental Engineering
Professor Tryg Lundquist was awarded the Raytheon Excellence in Teaching and Applied Research Award.

Mechanical Engineering
Professor Patrick Lemieux was awarded a patent for an automotive air cycle machine.

ALUMNI SUCCESS

A champion of women in technology, Kim Vorrath (B.S., Computer Science, 1988) was named the College of Engineering Honored Alumna. Vorrath is responsible for program management, power, performance and quality assurance for every new release of iOS for Apple.

The DayOne Waterbag, a portable water purifier co-invented by Tricia Compas-Markman (B.S./M.S., Civil and Environmental Engineering, 2009) and Professor Tryg Lundquist, received the Intel Environment Award.

Christina Diaz (B.S./M.S., Aerospace Engineering, 2013), a systems engineer at NASA’s Jet Propulsion Laboratory, was featured in Vanity Fair Mexico as a Latina who “embodies power.”

Carolyn Berg (B.S., Civil Engineering, 2008) and Eric Veium (B.S., Industrial Engineering, 2008) were among the “Top 20 Under 40” young professionals honored by The Tribune newspaper.

Karen Bartleson (B.S., Engineering Science, 1980), senior director of corporate programs and initiatives at Synopsys, is the 2016 Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers president-elect.

Kate Van Dellen (B.S., Aerospace Engineering, 2008), won the SWE Distinguished New Engineer Award.

Will Fletcher (B.S., Civil Engineering, 2010; M.S., Fire Protection Engineering, 2012) was recognized among the top “40 Under 40” young building and engineering professionals by Consulting-Specifying Engineer magazine.

One of the world’s foremost authorities on wheelchair design, Rory Cooper (B.S. and M.S., Electrical Engineering, 1985-86) was issued a patent for the Robotic Strong Arm that assists people with high-level injuries to live and travel more independently.
Why does Northrop Grumman identify Cal Poly as one of its Enterprise Focus Universities?

“Cal Poly is an important partner whose emphasis on Learn by Doing helps to build strong graduates who can have a significant impact in the workforce,” said Doug Young, vice president of missile defense and advanced systems at Northrop Grumman.

In fact, more than 450 Cal Poly alumni work at Northrop Grumman, including 22 of its top executives. And with gifts totaling more than $200,000 in 2015 alone, Northrop Grumman’s support for the College of Engineering reflects extraordinary generosity and breadth. The company provided gifts to college departments and programs, labs, senior projects, scholarships, applied research and student professional societies.

“Northrop Grumman serves as a model for corporate interaction, with a relationship that spans the University and involves many individuals who enjoy working together,” said College of Engineering Dean Debra Larson. “Above all, this special partnership is founded on our mutual commitment to the student-to-employee pipeline.

“Northrop Grumman is helping us educate graduates who possess state-of-practice skills in fields like cybersecurity, autonomous flight, small satellites, big data, composites and advanced manufacturing, safety, and innovation. We are also working together to bring more diversity to engineering and computer science.”

Areas of support that especially signify Northrop Grumman’s leadership in engineering education include the Cal Poly CubeSat, cybersecurity and autonomous flight.

The CubeSat program prepares students for industry by providing opportunities to design, build, test, launch and track miniature satellites. The team-based program involves collaboration with other universities, scientists and government. Northrop Grumman’s $13,000 in support last year, for instance, helped Cal Poly play a pivotal role in testing the Planetary Society’s LightSail CubeSat.

Northrop Grumman has also made significant investments in Cal Poly’s cybersecurity program. In 2014, the company helped found Cal Poly’s cybersecurity program. In 2014, the company helped found Cal Poly’s cyber lab.

“Our computer science and software engineering students absolutely know the Northrop Grumman name — they are developing sophisticated cyber literacy because of the lab and company support of the student White Hat club,” noted Larson.

In the area of autonomous flight, Northrop Grumman has promoted the training of unmanned aerial systems operators through support of Cal Poly’s Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAV) team and the Autonomous Flight Lab dedicated to the establishment of a flight research program.

Additionally, an autonomous vehicle project, now in its fifth year, aims to fulfill Northrop Grumman’s goal of providing students with a large, system-level, multidisciplinary design experience. With the help and mentorship of Northrop Grumman experts like Charles Volk, director of advanced technologies and products, teams of students and faculty from Cal Poly and Cal Poly Pomona work to develop a collaborative system between UAVs and an unmanned ground vehicle.

Diversity is another important initiative for both Cal Poly and Northrop Grumman. Not only does Northrop Grumman support the Cal Poly Scholars program for low-income, first-generation students, but it is part of a three-way partnership with Cal Poly and DaVinci Schools to bring highly qualified, diverse students to and through Cal Poly Engineering and into jobs at top-tier companies, including Northrop Grumman.

Young summarized, “Northrop Grumman’s support has focused on stimulating and nurturing a diverse pool of graduates in technology fields that are important to global security.”
DONOR HONOR ROLL

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BEQUEST WILL HELP COLLEGE CAST WIDE NET FOR TOP STUDENTS

When Tony Domit worked as a senior engineer at Scientific Data Systems in the mid-1960s, the company built computers that were the size of refrigerators. The same level of computing power is now cellphone-sized.

“My junior and senior courses in electronics focused on transistor technology, but by the time I graduated, the industry had switched to integrated circuits,” noted Domit, a 1963 graduate.

Although he faced daunting and rapid change in his industry, Domit was successful in holding leadership positions for 22 years with Xerox and founding two companies: Advanced Workstation Products and Document Sciences Corporation.

“It is hard to stay ahead of the curve in business and technology today,” admits Domit, “but my College of Engineering education taught me how to adapt. Learn by Doing taught me how to apply textbook material to actual problems and find real solutions. The experience was invaluable in learning how to rapidly integrate concepts into concrete results, which is critical in fast-evolving technologies and markets.”

Being proud of and grateful for his Cal Poly education, Domit was happy to serve as one of the founding members of the Dean’s Advisory Council, established in 1995 by then-Dean Peter Y. Lee. “I really got to know the college as a member of the council for 10 years,” said Domit, “and I got a lot of satisfaction in being able to contribute to its success.”

“The council provided input on industry requirements — part of the process in keeping the curriculum current — and I especially enjoyed meeting students. As an alumnus, I am very pleased by the strong ties the College of Engineering has developed with industry, and I truly admire how the college has been able to attract superb students and turn them into wonderful engineers, many of whom I hired in my years at Xerox.”

In addition to his volunteer service, Domit has been a longtime donor to the Annual Fund; and this year, Domit and his wife Gail established a generous bequest to aid his department, Electrical Engineering.

“The bequest represents a big thank you to Cal Poly,” said Domit. “I came from a lower middle-class family. I worked, received scholarships and went into the Naval Reserves to help pay for my education. Still, I remember having $3.15 to my name after filling up my car at the end of my junior year! “I have had a good life, better than I would have expected. Cal Poly changed my trajectory.”

“My College of Engineering education taught me how to adapt. Learn by Doing taught me how to apply textbook material to actual problems and find real solutions. The experience was invaluable in learning how to rapidly integrate concepts into concrete results.”
CONCRETE LEGACY OF HARD WORK INSPIRES CAL POLY ENGINEER

Alian Ali’s father inspired him to become a civil engineer.

“My father was born to parents who were illiterate, but understood the value of education. To study at night, he had to go to a neighbor’s house that had electricity; for paper, he tore sheets off election posters in his Pakistani village,” said Ali.

With scholarship aid, Ali’s father attended the University of Engineering & Technology in Lahore, and after immigrating to the U.S., he earned a master’s degree in structural engineering at Sacramento State.

“Ever since I was in elementary school, Dad has judged science and engineering fair contests — I still have contest tee shirts from nine years ago! I guess all of us are following his footsteps because out of my five siblings, four are studying civil engineering, including my twin brother, Sanan, here at Cal Poly.”

Ali did well in high school as a student and athlete, playing defensive tackle and lineman on the football squad. He chose to attend Cal Poly because of its excellent reputation and because its hands-on program appealed to a guy who, in his words, “doesn’t mind wearing a white-collared shirt to a job, if I can wear boots to do the work.”

To help pay for college, Ali has served as a resident advisor on campus and had summer jobs ranging from babysitting to delivering pizzas. His most rewarding employment, though, has been as a staff engineer intern at his dad’s company, TSI Engineering.

“I’ve gotten experience with AutoCAD, working on proposals and bids, gathering quotes and cost estimates and drafting complete project schedules,” explains Ali. “My favorite thing has been site supervision.

“Last summer, I supervised a project to replace a septic tank at a veterans cemetery — it was exciting! I needed to fully understand the scope, minimize expenses, ensure quality control, oversee safety, follow best management practices … even make sure the crew was well hydrated. And when needed, I put on gloves and jumped in the pit! My TSI experience has made me want to work with a design-build approach as a professional engineer.

“In fact, I used funds from the Clark Construction Scholarship to join the Design-Build Institute and to sign up for the EIT (Engineer-In-Training) exam. The scholarship has taken a ton off my shoulders!”

The Clark scholarship has also made Ali think about giving back. “I would like to help connect alumni to Cal Poly,” he says. “As the alumni relations officer for the Cal Poly Society of Civil Engineers, I intend to reach out to fellow Mustangs, perhaps inviting them to offer scholarships.

“Having received a scholarship that makes college fiscally bearable, I can see myself offering scholarships to ambitious students once I, too, have the means.”

Alian Ali
Civil Engineering Senior

Clark Construction Scholarship
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The following companies and foundations have generously matched gifts from their employees to the College of Engineering

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Workday Inc.
In one short year, generous alumni, parents and industry affiliates made an enormous impact on the Computer Science & Software Engineering Department (CSSE).

These donors stepped up to help establish a unique facility: a Massively Parallel Accelerated Computing (MPAC) lab.

"CSSE’s strategic initiatives in cybersecurity, data science, computational art and interactive entertainment all require high-performance computing," noted Chair Ignatios Vakalis. With the opening of the MPAC Lab in fall 2015, students now have the opportunity to work with two massively parallel architectures, a state-of-the-art multicore central processing unit, large memory, high-definition displays and advanced software development tools.

The facility supports new curriculum, including undergraduate courses in applied parallel computing and computer graphics and rendering, and a graduate course on distributed systems. "In addition to specialized courses, the MPAC lab serves the needs of core courses, providing students at all levels access to this cutting-edge facility" said Associate Professor Chris Lupo.

"The MPAC lab also supports research in which students and faculty collaborate on interdisciplinary computational projects in many applications. Demand for students with skills in high-performance computing is only increasing." said Lupo.

When alumni and parents learned that CSSE had identified MPAC as its number one priority in keeping students abreast of new technology, they responded with gifts ranging from $20 to $40,000. In all, approximately 120 donors made gifts totaling $345,000. Intel Corporation also helped build and configure the lab.

"We are immensely grateful to our donors — the MPAC campaign shows how small donors can have an enormous impact," said Lupo, who teaches Applied Parallel Computing. "The MPAC facility is truly unique, and it’s the most advanced computational laboratory in the entire California State University System.

“Cal Poly’s MPAC lab is really something to be proud of.”
Valeria Salazar has never taken her education for granted. Although she grew up in Tijuana, Mexico, she commuted across the border to attend a public charter high school in San Diego because she knew she wanted to apply to the best aerospace engineering colleges in the States.

“In elementary school, we researched careers — the awesome facts I learned about aerospace engineering stuck with me,” she said. “I’m good with math and science, and when I told my parents I wanted to be an astronaut, they said ‘Go for it.’”

Go for it, she did. In high school, Salazar reached out to an air traffic controller, who became a mentor and helped her land an internship at the Federal Aviation Administration. In only her second year at Cal Poly, she has also landed a summer internship at Northrop Grumman.

“I learned there was an Unmanned Aerial Vehicle club on campus working with Northrop Grumman and Cal Poly Pomona on a collaborative project,” Salazar explained. “I got involved last quarter, working on the hardware side. We presented our progress in a design review at the company in Woodland Hills, which opened the possibility for a paid internship.”

Salazar clearly understands how networking can advance her educational and professional goals. She’s active with the Multicultural Engineering Program (MEP) and an officer in the Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers (SHPE).

“I’m really grateful to MEP for giving me opportunities to connect to projects and design competitions with NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory and Northrop Grumman. Plus, I’ve found a welcoming community in SHPE, one that is passionate about engineering,” she says. As chair of the SHPE Jr. Committee, Salazar heads efforts to inspire local Hispanic high school students to pursue careers in STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics). “It’s very rewarding to give back by working with younger students — hopefully, I can help open doors like my mentors did for me,” comments Salazar. “I also want to do what I can to make engineering more diverse.”

The first in her family who will earn a bachelor’s degree — and, knowing her, probably a master’s as well — Salazar finances 100 percent of her education through financial aid, grants, loans and scholarships. This year, she was one of 10 recipients of Society of Women Engineers scholarships funded through the generosity of Bert and Candace Forbes.

“Because of this scholarship, I’ll be able to focus in on my studies and get closer to accomplishing my goals. That’s a great gift.”
Learn by Doing is hardwired into Cal Poly’s project-based curriculum — and a campaign is underway to bring a new epicenter for Learn by Doing to future generations: The Engineering Projects Center.

The shop experience — learning ground for countless multidisciplinary clubs and project teams — fosters graduates who are renowned worldwide for their ingenuity, know-how and ability to get things done. Students learn about safety, design and fabrication in an inclusive, welcoming shop environment. These hands-on facilities nurture teamwork, problem solving and leadership skills that prepare students to be Day One-ready innovators, engineering professionals and leaders.

Vital to this mission — and serving as the heart of hands-on learning — is a progressive Engineering Projects Center that provides the space and tools needed to bring an idea from concept to finished product.

Showcasing the latest technologies, the Engineering Projects Center will be an epicenter for “doing” that fosters collaboration and innovation — a core environment for investigating, designing and fabricating cutting-edge products and systems.

Strategically located at the corner of the Engineering Quad

"The shop experience empowers students to think and dream big."

"In the workshop, I learned about safety, design and fabrication — all vital to a successful career."

"The interaction between students and shop technicians helps transition students to industry culture."

"It’s exciting to see the increased efficiencies, possibilities and opportunities that a new workshop will bring."

"The new building will allow students to follow their passion."

— Comments from students, faculty, alumni and staff on the importance of workshops to a Cal Poly Engineering education and the proposed Engineering Projects Center.
across from Kennedy Library, the Engineering Projects Center will create a crossroads for STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) and liberal arts disciplines.

The new Engineering Projects Center and Bonderson Projects Center will be fully integrated to enhance synergy, efficiency and student-learning opportunities. It will foster convergence and collaboration between students, faculty and industry, while supporting development of forward-looking curricula that addresses the needs of industry and maximizes hands-on, applied research.

The Engineering Projects Center will be the new gateway to campus and to Cal Poly’s unparalleled Learn by Doing education.

BE A PART OF THE FUTURE
Make a gift: Be a part of this exciting new building project.

Recent shifts in spending priorities by the State of California means that this facility must be wholly financed with private funding.

We invite you to join us in this campaign for the Engineering Projects Center — it’s core to our mission and vital to our Learn by Doing future.

For more information and to make a gift, contact:

Richard LeRoy,
Assistant Dean
805-756-7108
rlroy@calpoly.edu

FACILITY HIGHLIGHTS
- Advanced manufacturing and fabrication shops
- Design and ideation space
- Flexible workspaces for clubs, project design and assembly
- State-of-the-art technologies and leading-edge equipment
- Faculty and student applied research space
- Student-operated shops
- 24/7 access for all students and faculty

FACILITY SPACES INCLUDE:

Ideation Suite
Ideation and design are essentials of Learn by Doing. The ideation spaces will allow students to get a hands-on snapshot of the creative development process in a collaborative arena.

Advanced Shop
A Learn by Doing epicenter, the Advanced Shop provides the infrastructure, capacity, space flexibility, and the latest equipment and technology for the creation of hundreds of student projects across campus.

Advanced Material Fabrication
Consisting of simulation, fabrication and testing environments for cutting-edge technologies, the Advanced Material Fabrication space serves as the venue for exploring emerging materials and manufacturing processes.

Advanced Electronics Shop
In the Advanced Electronics Shop, students will fabricate and test projects related to electronics, mechatronics and the “Internet of Things.”

Project Testing Area
The Project Testing Area is where the “rubber meets the road” for projects ranging from full-sized chassis dynamometers for national competition vehicles to micro-scale strain gauges.

Engineering Club Spaces
These areas provide secure, flexible and easily reconfigured space scaled to the needs of various student clubs across many majors.
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As the lead welder for the 2016 Cal Poly Rose Parade Float, Mason Garcia found inspiration in family role models.

He attended the Rose Parade with his family throughout his childhood. “In 1973, my great aunt was a Rose Princess, which was a huge deal,” he said. “It showed that we had exceeded expectations for an immigrant family that arrived in the U.S. with my great-grandfather.”

Garcia’s grandfather, meanwhile, was a welder in the aerospace sector. “As a child, I got to spend a lot of time with him, and his influence has stayed with me,” said Garcia. “Knowing him whetted my interest in welding: I’ve hoped that I might ‘live the legacy.’ I’ve been able to explore that possibility at Cal Poly.”

The first grandchild in his extended family, and the first of his immediate family who will earn a bachelor’s degree, Garcia has thrived at Cal Poly thanks in part to the communities, opportunities and support he found in the Rose Float team, his department and the Cal Poly Scholars program.

“Working on the Rose Float for three years has been amazing,” Garcia noted. “This year, I was lead welder, but the team has offered me other opportunities as well. I’m an industrial engineer but I’ve also planted seed plugs and harvested flowers. We’re all involved in construction, design, decoration, marketing, soliciting donations and social media. Everyone learns something about everything.”

Garcia’s appetite for learning has also been fed by his major. “I’ve taken machining courses, such as welding, early on in my studies, and I was able to get access to machine shops,” he notes. “I started handling manual machines by my third year, and am getting into CNC this year.”

“Professor Karen Bangs opened the doors to the industrial engineering concept of process improvement and threw us into a project with NextIntent. Now I’m involved in manufacturing automation, which is where the industry is heading.”

Without the Cal Poly Scholars program, however, Garcia might not have attended Cal Poly. He was weighing the choice between USC and Cal Poly when he received notification of the scholarship. Targeted at high achieving, low-income and first generation California students, the Cal Poly Scholars program offers living and programmatic support to see these promising students through to graduation.

“The letter from the Cal Poly Scholars Program brought a sigh of relief — it was a sign that Cal Poly was the one for me,” said Garcia.

“The financial support, along with an environment to help accelerate personal, academic and professional growth, has made all the difference. I was among the 12 or so freshmen who made up the first cohort of the program, and it’s been true to all that was promised. Its support has allowed me to really branch out and expand my world.”

Mason Garcia
Industrial Engineering Senior
Cal Poly Scholar

“...The letter from the Cal Poly Scholars Program brought a sigh of relief — it was a sign that Cal Poly was the one for me...”
On May 6, Cal Poly dedicated the Keysight Advanced Communications Laboratory in recognition of a key industry partner and the transformative support it provided to the College of Engineering. Over the next decade, industry will transition from 4G to 5G communications. Thanks to Keysight Technologies Inc., Cal Poly students and researchers will help design that transition.

Keysight, a manufacturer of test and measurement equipment and software, donated $1.3 million in technology that will allow students and faculty to generate, receive and analyze 4G and emerging 5G wireless signals. With this gift, the Advanced Communications Lab will support Cal Poly’s College of Engineering interdisciplinary strategic initiative in mobile computing and the Electrical Engineering Department’s initiatives in mobile computing and communications.

“The overall goal of the Advanced Communication System lab is to enable our students to be part of the mobile communications explosion that has fostered implementation of data-intensive wireless networks,” said Dennis Derickson, chair of the Electrical Engineering Department.

“All 650 electrical engineering students will use the Keysight vector signal analyzers and generators as part of their curriculum, a unique opportunity for undergraduates worldwide. “With this versatile instrumentation, our students, even at the undergraduate level, will be able to experiment with systems that will enable 5G communications,” he said. “In effect, Cal Poly will be part of the discourse regarding the next generation in communications, making our graduates ever more valuable as professionals.”

“We are confident the integration of Keysight wireless test hardware and libraries with the engineering curriculum will offer a truly rich learning platform for the next generation of engineers,” said Satish Dhanasekaran, vice president and general manager of Keysight’s Wireless Device and Operator Segment and a Cal Poly industry advisory board member.

“"In effect, Cal Poly will be part of the discourse regarding the next generation in communications, making our graduates ever more valuable as professionals.""
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Last March, 27 members of the Cal Poly chapter of the National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE) attended the five-day NSBE national convention in Boston. This was remarkable representation from a West Coast university, and a record contingent for Cal Poly.

What helped speed the NSBE members on their journey to the prestigious leadership and networking forum were the small donations made by alumni, parents, faculty, and staff during the 24-hour #GivingTuesday campaign.

For two years, the College of Engineering has made a special call to action to support the Learn by Doing promise on #GivingTuesday, the national day of giving following Thanksgiving. This year, the event garnered almost $64,000 to support labs, student projects, and engineering clubs. Because of the generous gifts provided by more than 300 donors, the college was able to cut a check when NSBE requested support for its trip to Boston.

In addition to NSBE, #GivingTuesday donations provided funds for participation in national conferences by members of Engineers Without Borders, the Institute of Transportation Engineers, the Radio Frequency Identification Club, and the Sales Engineering Club.

What does participation in a national conference mean to students? Because the NSBE event, like other professional society conventions, includes professional development workshops and a career fair with more than 200 companies, students can hone their professional development skills and interview with a host of potential employers. In fact, every one of the Cal Poly NSBE attendees talked to multiple company representatives at the convention and a third received interviews.

For Braxton Cullors, past-president of NSBE, watching her fellow chapter members navigate the conference reinforced the importance of the club itself. “Throughout the year, NSBE works to build the professional skills of our members,” she said. “Seeing my NSBE colleagues in professional attire giving elevator pitches or hearing about their interviews makes it clear that NSBE provides vital support.”

“Personally, seeing so many people like me — first-generation black engineering students — gives me hope for the future and hope that NSBE will continue to increase the number of diverse engineers.”

Hope for the future is what philanthropy is all about — and the impact made by donors to #GivingTuesday includes hope and inspiration for the members of NSBE.

“NSBE is absolutely ecstatic that we’ve seen so much support from donors, and small ones at that!” exclaimed Cullors. “Donating money that benefits our club definitely helps us realize that we’re all part of a cycle: when we can give back, we will, to continue pulling others up with us, elevating the masses and the many at Cal Poly needing our support.”

Cal Poly National Society of Black Engineers officers Brandon Diggs (president), Dejah Hilliard (vice president), Braxton Cullors (president emeritus), Kyle Neelley (programs) and Jeana Osburn (secretary) traveled to the organization’s national conference in Boston with support from the #GivingTuesday campaign.
When she became a computer engineer, Jeslin James went against expectations — society’s, her family’s and her own. But even before she officially graduated, she had landed a job in human interface devices at a software company in Cupertino, Calif.

And before she had been employed a year, she had given back to Cal Poly.

“Everyone in my family is in the medical field, and my parents hoped that I would become a doctor,” she said. “But I wanted to follow my own path. I discovered computer engineering, researched Cal Poly’s program and it all seemed to fit. The campus was the right size, the university was welcoming and friendly — and I didn’t need to have prior experience programming.”

By the end of her freshman year, though, James hated computer engineering. She pushed through, telling herself that she could always switch majors, and in her third year, the curriculum started to click. “My all-time favorite class was Professor Lupo’s computer architecture course,” James said. “He’s an awesome teacher. I took the course with two other friends and we all killed it.”

That confidence boost helped set James up for success in the Computer Engineering (CPE) capstone course, which brought all her education together. “My team built a library of coding for radio-frequency identification readers,” explained James. “Looking back, that was my first taste of what the workforce would be like.”

Another confidence-builder for James was her participation in WISH (Women Involved in Software and Hardware), a support group for female computing majors, and her experience at the Grace Hopper Celebration of Women in Computing, the world’s largest gathering of women technologists — 15,000 are expected to attend the 2016 fall conference.

“I brought 50 resumes with me to pass out to company recruiters at the conference, and I went through them all,” said James. “My first-choice employer reached out to interview me at the conference, and then I had conversations by email with company engineers before a final interview that lasted five hours. They wanted detailed information about class projects.

“I was offered the job in January, less than four years after I entered as a freshman. Now I work 20 minutes from my home in San Jose and my folks are very much okay that I’m not a doctor!

“I would not be where I am without being a Cal Poly computer engineer.”

That’s why James responded with a gift when she received an email from CPE Director John Oliver asking new alumni to “pay it forward” by purchasing Nexys boards for incoming freshmen.

“I thought, I can do that!” said James. “I can help someone get a leg up in the program because Cal Poly did so well by me. It’s a small thanks.”
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His own involvement in Boys & Girls Club of the Los Angeles Harbor made Charly Flores realize that he can make a difference in the lives of others. At Cal Poly, his dedication and enthusiasm for outreach has made him a standout volunteer with the Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers (SHPE).

A second-year transfer from Los Angeles Harbor College, Flores first gave back as an academic tutor for the Boys & Girls Club.

“I realized that I could set an example for young students,” said Flores. “I was also personally influenced by a club mentor, an electrical engineer, who encouraged me to go to Cal Poly. He pushed me like my parents did.

“They have degrees from Mexico, but we moved here so that my siblings and I would have better opportunities. My mom took me to work to show me what it is like cleaning houses; my dad is a driver. My brother is now getting his doctorate in neurological science from the University of Texas and my sister has a business degree from Cal State Long Beach. We’re all driven to go above and beyond.”

Cal Poly and especially his involvement with SHPE has been more than he hoped for. "Besides the fact that we are a familia, I appreciate the opportunities SHPE gives member to network with industry, and I was really excited to attend the national conference in Baltimore," said Flores. "While there, I attended an event to empower Latinas — it made me want to help bring more women into engineering."

More than anything, Flores’ work with SHPE made him fall in love with outreach. He participated in an event at Santa Maria High School in which half of the 12 SHPE volunteers worked with students on engineering activities and the other half, Flores included, provided information on how to finance college to parents in Spanish. “They were so grateful!” he noted. "It really stuck with me."

This coming year, Flores will serve as SHPE’s president, having served as vice president of community affairs last year coordinating outreach events for students ranging from elementary to high school levels. His ultimate goal is to encourage younger students to pursue a higher education, with an emphasis in engineering-related fields, and to help the Cal Poly chapter membership to excel academically and grow professionally.

“The Chevron scholarship means I don’t have to work so much, so I have more time for school and SHPE. I give back because it makes me happy, but it’s nice to know that Chevron and others recognize my efforts.”

Charly Flores
Electrical Engineering Senior

Chevron MEP Scholarship
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