

# A Letter from Dean Phil Bailey

Phil Bailey

*California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo*

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## A Letter from Dean Phil Bailey

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The announcement of a \$110 million pledge from Bill and Linda Frost on May 3, 2017 changed everything for Cal Poly's College of Science and Mathematics. We are now able to pursue a bold vision of establishing the College as outstanding and nationally recognized in academic and student research programs. And we have the resources to do so thanks to Bill and Linda Frost.

Both Bill and Linda are California State University graduates. Linda Frost graduated from San Jose State University with a degree in biology and Bill Frost came to Cal Poly as a transfer student in the winter of 1970, earning his degree in biochemistry. I arrived at Cal Poly as a 26-year-old assistant professor in the fall of 1969, not long before Bill. We have been in contact ever since and worked together to define this historic gift, the largest in the history of the California State University system and one of the largest in the history of public universities in California.

Bill had an excellent undergraduate research experience at Cal Poly and credits it with giving him the skills and confidence "to define and solve problems as well as actually develop and implement solutions." These attributes served him well as he successfully formed his own businesses. Bill and Linda want to give current and future students that same experience of discovery that Bill had as a Cal Poly student.

Engaging in real-world research with faculty mentors presents students with questions yet to be answered. Finding the solutions engages one's curiosity, imagination, and creative and critical thinking skills. Interdisciplinary approaches and entrepreneurship can be involved as well as both independent thinking and group collaboration. Participating in research is a special educational experience for undergraduate students.

For well over a decade, Bill supported four students in research each summer. Beginning in 2014, he dramatically increased his support (which we matched with College Based Fee) and, since then, we have had approximately 200 students performing research with their faculty mentors full time each summer in the College of Science and Mathematics. This is just the beginning. Because of the Frosts' thoughtful generosity to the College of Science and Mathematics:

- Imagine that we are now able to attract, retain, and support students with generous stipends and scholarships to pursue degrees in the College of Science and Mathematics and engage in undergraduate research.
- Imagine that we can now provide our faculty with release time to more fully mentor our students in research and involve them in presentations and professional meetings and as co-authors on peer-reviewed publications.
- Imagine that we will now be able to continuously ensure that we have the best equipment and instrumentation needed for our students to perform real-life research.
- And, imagine that, in just a few years, we will have a new building with over 18,000 square feet of additional facilities for student-faculty research.

The College of Science and Mathematics has changed forever.

**Phil Bailey, Dean**

*College of Science and Mathematics*