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Contact: Ray Ladd
College of Architecture and Environmental Design
805-756-7432 | rladd@calpoly.edu

Cal Poly Programs Earn Top Rankings in Comprehensive Survey of Best Architecture and Design Schools

SAN LUIS OBISPO – Cal Poly's College of Architecture and Environmental Design has earned top rankings in several categories in the 2008 DesignIntelligence survey of the nation's university design programs.

Both Cal Poly's architecture program and landscape architecture program earned high marks from leading professionals surveyed for the ninth annual study, including Best in the West by Western firms ranking programs within their region.

In the 2008 rankings of the nation's 20 Top Architecture Programs, Cal Poly's undergraduate architecture program was rated fourth, up from its sixth-place ranking in 2007. The program has consistently made the nation's Top 20 List since 2003, with a ranking of six or better.

Cal Poly's undergraduate architecture program earned the No. 1 spot in two of the survey's regional categories: the Top 10 Regional/National Schools of Architecture, in which architecture firms in the Western region rank universities throughout the country; and the Top 5 Regional/Regional (West) Schools of Architecture, in which firms rank universities within their region.

Cal Poly's architecture program also earned the nation's top honor in the Construction Methods and Materials category of the Skills Assessment Ranking. This ranking is based on the preparedness of recent graduates in a range of skills such as design, analysis and planning, and research and theory. The survey also revealed that leading architecture professionals find that Cal Poly "consistently produces professionally competent graduates known for creative innovation."

"This year's Design Intelligence rankings send a clear message that practitioners recognize the importance of a polytechnic education. The Architecture Department remains ambitious in educating creative leaders who can work in an integrative and interdisciplinary manner; a professional path that continues to be demonstrated successfully by our alumni," said Henri T. de Hahn, Architecture Department Head.

Cal Poly's undergraduate landscape architecture program was 15th in the poll's list of the nation's Top 20 programs. The landscape architecture program has made this list consistently since 2005, with rankings of No. 5 (2007), No. 6 (2006) and No. 8 (2005).

In the Top 10 Regional/National Schools of Landscape Architecture, Cal Poly's undergraduate program earned the No. 2 spot, tying with Ball State, Colorado State and Utah State universities. This ranking is attained by Western regional firms ranking universities across the country.

The Cal Poly landscape architecture program earned the top spot in the Top 5 Regional/Regional (West) Schools, determined by regional firms assessing universities in their region.

In addition, Cal Poly Landscape Architecture Professor Gary Dwyer was singled out as one of the nation's Most Respected and Admired Educators. In all, 28 professors nationwide were chosen for this honor. Professors were cited for their inspiration, leadership, innovation, vision and their ability to balance practice, theory and technology.

"We are proud of our graduates who consistently rank as the best prepared in the region and of our dedicated faculty. We are especially proud of Gary Dwyer's commendation as one of the nation's most admired and respected educators," said Margarita M. Hill, Landscape Architecture Department Head.

More information about the College of Architecture and Environmental Design is available at www.caed.calpoly.edu.

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DesignIntelligence is a bi-monthly journal published by the Design Futures Council, a Washington, D.C.-based think tank that examines architecture, engineering and building technology. The DesignIntelligence

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California Polytechnic State University
San Luis Obispo, CA 93407
805.756.7266
polynews@calpoly.edu