Rominger To Head Four-Campus Partnership

Cal Poly, UC Davis, UC Riverside, and Fresno State are working with former U.S. Deputy Secretary of Agriculture Richard Rominger to address the expressed needs of California’s $27 billion agriculture industry.

Rominger is acting as a liaison between the universities and production agriculture, serving as an expert in agricultural issues, sharing information about campus agricultural programs, and making recommendations to the universities on behalf of farmers and ranchers.

In turn, the universities plan to strengthen programs and policies that contribute to the long-term stability of production agriculture and to explore relevant new initiatives.


Cal Poly

- According to a recent College Board report, Cal Poly remains one of the top choices for top students accepted here and at other universities in California and the nation.

- *Yahoo! Internet Life Magazine* has rated Cal Poly in the top 100 universities for its Internet technology and services among more than 1,300 “wired colleges” surveyed.

- The Liberal Studies Program received an award of $211,000 from the Eisenhower Foundation and the California Postsecondary Education Commission to expand arts education in five local schools.

- *Cal Poly: The First Hundred Years*, a retrospective volume produced by the library’s University Archives as part of the Centennial Celebration, received a Bookshow 2001 award from Bookbuilders West and an Award of Distinction for the Far West District of the Council for the Advancement and Support of Education.

- Cal Poly’s interactive recruiting CD-Rom, “The Key,” captured a silver medal and earned the university one of 14 “Best of Show” places in the 17th Annual Admissions Advertising Awards Competition.

- Certificate programs in information technology and Oracle database administration will be offered by Cal Poly’s Extended Studies at Keesler Air Force Base in Biloxi, Miss., as the department’s first permanent out-of-state programs.

- Cal Poly students approved College-Based Fees that will add $125 per quarter for College of Liberal Arts students and $200 per quarter for students in the College of Agriculture, College of Architecture and Environmental Design, Orfalea College of Business, College of Engineering, and College of Science and Mathematics. The funds will pay for additional courses, computer lab updates, and new equipment.
Faculty
- Former Cal Poly Dean of Agriculture Joseph Jen was sworn in as U.S. undersecretary of agriculture for research, education, and economics.
- Professor of Civil and Environmental Engineering Rakesh Goel received the American Society of Civil Engineers' most prestigious award – the 2001 Norman Medal – for his analyses of earthquake effects on structures.
- The Christopher Reeve Paralysis Foundation awarded Kinesiology Professor Kevin Taylor a $5,000 Quality of Life award for his open-water kayaking program for people with disabilities.
- Cal Poly Statistics Professor Allan J. Rossman has been named a Fellow of the American Statistical Association for his work in curriculum development and active learning, an honor bestowed on no more than one-third of 1 percent of the ASA's membership annually.
- Social Sciences Professor Harold Kerbo has been selected a 2003 Fulbright Scholar to teach classes in sociology, political science, and global economy and poverty as the distinguished chair in the Human and Social Sciences Department at the University of Vienna.
- David Rackley, Mustang Marching Band director, composer, and teacher, was awarded a Silver Omni – his third – for music he composed for the video documentary "The Misdiagnosis of Death," which recently aired on The Learning Channel.

Students
- The Cal Poly chapter of the Collegiate Future Farmers of America has been recognized as the Outstanding Professional Development Program among CFFA programs nationwide.
- Mechanical Engineering Professor Saeed Niku and a team of students demonstrated a flexible bolt prototype at the 6th Annual National Collegiate Innovators and Inventors Alliance Conference in Washington, D.C., at the Smithsonian Museum of Natural History. The Flexibolt may be used in construction, machine design, robotics, and seismic applications.
- The Senior Dairy Cattle Judging Team took home three first-place awards at the 2002 Southwestern Exposition and Livestock Show in Fort Worth, Texas, in the Reasons, Swiss, and Jersey divisions.
- Cal Poly's Student Managed Portfolio Project team (Orfalea College of Business) placed second among 33 universities at the second "RISE-Redeﬁning Investment Strategy Education" Symposium and Portfolio Competition highlighting fund-management capabilities.
- Nearly 30 percent of Cal Poly students work in community-service federal work-study jobs, making Cal Poly one of the top 20 larger, public four-year universities to serve its neighbors.