Centennial Fund-Raising Campaign Tops $200 Million in 2002-2003

Cal Poly's Centennial Campaign once again broke records in 2002-2003 to finish the fiscal year at over $202 million – nearly four times more than the next-largest campaign in the history of the California State University's 23 campuses.

With more than 28,000 gifts and pledges, the university raised $37 million over the past fiscal year, bringing the campaign total to 90 percent of its $225 million goal.

Contributions from corporations and foundations totaled nearly $11 million, but it was individual gifts from parents, alumni and friends that took Cal Poly over the $200 million mark.

The Cal Poly Fund – the university's annual fund program – brought in 22,554 gifts totaling $2.2 million, a 13 percent increase up from $1.95 million the previous year.

Unrestricted support from parents totaled more than $560,000 from 7,000 gifts, an increase of 10 percent that set a new record for parent support.

And among the major gifts from individuals that took the campaign over $200 million were:

• A $6 million pledge from Donald E. Bentley to establish the Donald E. Bentley Center for Engineering Innovation in Cal Poly's Mechanical Engineering Department and endow a director and two faculty positions
• A $5 million bequest pledge from alumnus Isaac Barpal (EE and MATH '67) (see cover story on pages 4-6)
• A $1 million pledge from Robin Rossi (ARCH '75) to the College of Architecture and Environmental Design to help build and equip a new building, fund student grants, begin a design professionals mentoring program, fund a professorship in honor of CAED founding dean George Hasslein, and support the Cal Poly Scholars program
• A $1 million commitment of real estate from Allyn Rosetta (AGB '68) to the College of Agriculture to establish the Ag Business Founders Endowment honoring Professors Edgar Hyer and Dan Chase (see donor profile on page 7)
• A nearly $1 million irrevocable trust established by James M. Pyle (AGB '79) to establish a universitywide professorship
• A $945,000 charitable remainder unitrust established by Allyn and Lee Arnold to benefit the University Center for Teacher Education
• A $700,000 charitable remainder unitrust established by Peter H. ('64 ARCE) and Ida Mae Berg to benefit the George Hasslein Endowed Chair for Interdisciplinary Studies in Environmental Design
• A $650,000 commitment by Ken Gerlack (CH '62) to the College of Agriculture to help create the Ken and Gay Gerlack Professorship Endowment

Future Plans
Cal Poly plans to continue its progress toward reaching the Centennial Campaign goal of $225 million by December 31, 2004. In fact, the university projects that it will surpass the $225 million mark during the upcoming fiscal year and move toward $250 million.

Major campaign projects include securing funding for the new Center for Science and Mathematics, creating a new building for the College of Architecture and Environmental Design, and developing the Wine and Viticulture Center.

Other top funding priorities are endowed and term professorships and chairs, scholarships and the Cal Poly Scholars Program, and the latest technology innovations for classroom instruction and research.