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Cal Poly Society of Civil Engineers Wins National Award for Most Outstanding Chapter

SAN LUIS OBISPO – The American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) deemed Cal Poly the winner of the prestigious ASCE Robert Ridgway Award, given to the most outstanding chapter out of the 280 student groups across the country.

Cal Poly has received this award twice before, in 1993 and 1999. It is based on evaluation of the group's annual report of activities.

Gregg Fiegel, Cal Poly faculty adviser, said the award is a tremendous honor. "The award is only given to those student chapters that go above and beyond in providing for their members, their university and their local community," he said.

Cal Poly Engineering Dean Mohammad Noori, an ASCE member with a doctorate in the field, said the Ridgway Award is not a typical first-place success. "It is a huge accomplishment. It means our students have truly distinguished themselves and we're very proud of them." said Noori.

The ASCE also recognized individual Cal Poly civil engineering students. Senior Sheila Shideh and spring graduate J.W. Mattina received student leadership awards. Both have been club members for four years and have held three officer positions.

Cal Poly's ASCE chapter also received a letter of recognition for community service. Chapter service activities include "Building Big," an outreach program for local middle and high schools, and the popular annual Popsicle Stick Bridge Contest, which allows local students to compete at Cal Poly's Open House.

In addition to the student awards, Fiegel was recognized as Outstanding Faculty Adviser in ASCE Region 9.

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