Cal Poly Engineering Grads Honored

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Contact: Amy Hewes
(805) 756-6402
ahewes@calpoly.edu

Three Distinguished Grads
Honored by Cal Poly College of Engineering

SAN LUIS OBISPO – Cal Poly’s College of Engineering recognized three distinguished alumni with Professional Achievement Awards during the university’s recent Open House celebration.

The annual awards honor graduates of 10 years or more who have attained a high level of distinction in their fields. The winners were 1985 aerospace engineering graduate Beth Anderson from Bellevue, Wash., 1984 civil engineering alumnus Alfonso Rodriguez from Fullerton, and 1983 mechanical engineering graduate Randel Woodgrift from Lake Elsinore.

After graduating from Cal Poly, Anderson joined The Boeing Company as a structural engineer analyzing airplane damage and designing repairs. She moved into management positions, including director of engineering services for airplane services, a position in which she led 1,100 engineers to provide “Total Solutions” for the airline industry. She was also named a member of the Boeing Safety Council and representative for International Air Transport Association initiatives. Today, Anderson is director of technical services for Boeing Commercial Airplane, providing comprehensive technical and business leadership and guidance for the modification services business unit.

For a period of time, Rodriguez was the youngest city engineer in the state, serving as city engineer and land surveyor for several local agencies. He also managed the new high school construction program for the Los Angeles Unified School District before becoming deputy executive officer for the Metropolitan Transportation Authority and project manager of two heavy-rail subway projects, totaling $3 billion, in downtown Los Angeles. Currently, Rodriguez serves as vice president and operations manager of the URS Corp. office in Los Angeles. The corporation, for the fourth consecutive year, ranked number one in Engineering News Record’s list of the top 500 design firms.

Woodgrift is corporate vice president for Edwards Lifesciences’ Manufacturing Operations. The company is a global leader in advanced cardiovascular disease products and technologies and in acute hemodynamic monitoring. It is also the number-one heart valve company in the world. Woodgrift has held management positions in research and development and manufacturing and operations, including management of the Puerto Rico operation of Baxter’s CardioVascular Group. He was vice president of heart-valve operations for the United States and Europe, eventually assuming responsibility for all CardioVascular manufacturing, logistics, facilities, environmental and health and safety functions. In 1999, he initiated the CardioVascular Group’s first operations in the Dominican Republic.

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