Southern California Firm Pledges $80,000 Toward New Building for Architecture, Environmental Design

SAN LUIS OBISPO -- Morley Builders of Santa Monica, the firm that built the new Cathedral of Our Lady of the Angels in Los Angeles, has pledged $80,000 for the construction of the main conference room in a planned new building for Cal Poly's College of Architecture and Environmental Design.

The commitment is part of a college campaign to raise $7.5 million to combine with $17.7 million in state funds to complete the new structure. Plans for the project, now being drawn, include classrooms, faculty offices and other facilities for the college's five departments, primarily Construction Management. It will be located on the campus's South Perimeter Drive on the site now occupied by the Air Conditioning Building.

"We are very pleased to have the generous support of Morley Builders in helping to fulfill an important component of the largest and most comprehensive facility development project that has taken place in the college's history," said Interim Dean of Architecture and Environmental Design K. Richard Zweifel. "Morley Builders represents the finest in construction practice and we're encouraged to see its endorsement of our plans to make such a significant advance in the education we offer our students in the construction management program and the rest of the college.

"The Morley Builders Conference Room will provide a much-needed, specialized teaching and learning space for enhancing a program already rated among the very best in the nation," Zweifel said.

Morley Builders President Mark Benjamin, son of company founder Morley Benjamin and a board member of the American Council for Construction Education, said, "We wanted to support the college's project by
providing a space within it that would be utilized by the students, the faculty and Construction Management Department staff members."

Benjamin noted that four of Morley Builders' vice presidents -- Mark Montoya, Charles Muttillo, Chris Forster and Jeff Simonson -- are Cal Poly graduates and said, "Our firm has benefited greatly from the talent and skill of quite a few Cal Poly graduates, and we're honored to give back to the college by providing one of the lead gifts toward this new building campaign."

In addition to the Los Angeles cathedral, Morley Builders' recent projects include restoration and construction at the Getty Villa Museum near Malibu, UCLA's Royce Hall and the Hollywood Bowl.

For more information about private support for the College of Architecture and Environmental Design, including scholarships, grants and work-study internships, call Ray Ladd, the college's associate director of advancement, at 756-7432.

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