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Cal Poly Enrollment Creates a 'Marketplace of Ideas'

SAN LUIS OBISPO – California and Cal Poly both benefit when students from other states and countries enroll at the campus.

Because of its academic excellence, the job-ready reputation of its graduates and its highly desirable location on California's Central Coast, Cal Poly is an attractive university for students from other states and countries.

According to James Maraviglia, assistant vice president for admissions, recruitment and financial aid, Cal Poly has always accepted students from out of state, as do most public universities. He points out two key benefits of hosting non-state students at Cal Poly.

"First, they enrich the diversity of the student body whether they are from different states or from different countries. Second, approximately two-thirds or more remain to live and work in California after graduation. Thus, Cal Poly ends up helping draw very talented people to join the California workforce," he said.

Enrolling students from outside of California also helps in other ways. "Their varied backgrounds and life experiences contribute to making the Cal Poly campus a 'marketplace of ideas,' the mission of all great universities. And the higher fees they pay help keep costs down for in-state students," Maraviglia said. Non-California residents will pay more than \$18,000 for tuition and fees, about three times what California residents pay for an academic year. Admissions standards are the same for students regardless of residency.

Maraviglia also noted that out-of-state students' participation in certain programs helps keep the programs alive and thriving. For example, Cal Poly is the only university west of the Rockies to offer a degree in dairy science, attracting agriculture students from throughout the West.

Over the last 10 years, slightly more than 90 percent of Cal Poly's enrollment has been made up of California residents. Going forward, even with reduced funding from the state legislature, Maraviglia estimated that California residents will comprise 85 to 90 percent of Cal Poly's enrollment.

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