Cal Poly is CSU System's Top Fund-Raiser, Thanks to Supporters

Cal Poly raised more than $43.2 million in gifts from individuals, corporations and foundations during fiscal year 2000-2001, the largest amount ever received by any California State University Campus in a single year.

Gifts received included $1.5 million to the College of Agriculture from Omer and Claudia King. Bert and Candace Forbes gave $3 million to the College of Engineering, and Paul and Sandra Bonderson gave $2 million to the College of Engineering. The largest single gift to Cal Poly in fiscal year 2000-01 came from Kinko's founder Paul Orfalea and his wife Natalie, who donated some $16 million for the Orfalea College of Business and the Orfalea Family and Associated Students Inc. Children's Center.

System-wide, CSUs spent an average 17 cents on fund raising per dollar raised. Cal Poly's cost to raise each dollar was less than half the CSU average.

Like other public universities across the nation, Cal Poly devotes significant effort to fund raising in order to finance improvements and acquire technology needed to continue to attract top faculty and students.

State funding for higher education has decreased during the past decade. This drop, coupled with Cal Poly's polytechnic programs and emphasis on expensive "hands-on" laboratory-intensive forms of learning makes private donations increasingly vital to the university.

"One of the most critical new efforts under way at Cal Poly is the Centennial Campaign. The success of our campaign is essential if we are to strengthen the many advantages we already offer students, and continue our tradition of excellence. This is a vote of confidence in the mission of the university and further serves to recognize the dedication and quality of our faculty," stressed Cal Poly President Warren J. Baker.

"Every single donation from our alumni and friends is important in helping us strengthen and further develop our academic programs to meet the challenge of a new century," Baker said. "We would like to thank and commend our supporters for their generosity."

Since the close of the fiscal year in July, the university has received numerous additional gifts and pledges. The largest is the historic Unocal Pier in Avila Beach. Unocal donated the $18 million pier to Cal Poly's College of Science and Mathematics, along with a $3.5 million endowment for operations and maintenance. As a result of Unocal's support, the university now operates a Marine Science Education and Research Center - one of the few in the nation focusing on undergraduate marine science education. Unocal has donated a total of $25 million to Cal Poly since the start of its Centennial Campaign.

Other recent gifts and pledges not included in the CSU figures were a $1 million pledge from an anonymous donor to the College of Liberal Arts and a $500,000 gift to the college's Music Department from James and Martha Michel. Paul and Sandra Bonderson have given and pledged an additional $4 million to the College of Engineering. The J.G. Boswell Foundation gave and pledged a total of $1.2 million to the College of Agriculture to create an endowed professorship in plant biotechnology. Cal Poly Athletics received a $2.2 million pledge from Richard O'Neil toward the Memorial Stadium renovation project.

For more information on Cal Poly's Centennial Campaign, visit the campaign Web site at http://giving.calpoly.edu/.

For more information on fund-raising in the CSU system, a news release from the Chancellor's Office is available on-line at http://www.calstate.edu/pa/news/Support2000.shtml.

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