SAN LUIS OBISPO - Cal Poly architectural engineering student Pablo Ramos, a young father who grew up in Santa Maria, has been named a 2010 Hearst Scholar.

Ramos grew up in a single-parent home in Santa Maria, where his mother worked hard to provide him with a solid foundation. However, living in a tough neighborhood made it difficult for him to focus on high school or think about the possibility of attending college. It was during an internship at an architectural firm while attending Allan Hancock College that Ramos discovered his career path.

“In times of need, you have two choices: You can give up and go home, or you can challenge your mind and strive to better yourself,” said Ramos.

This past summer, Ramos attended the National Science Foundation Research Experience for Undergraduates (REU) at the University of Nevada, Reno, where he tested the response of bridges to earthquakes.

In 2007, he became a father, which added new challenges and rewards to his life. He sees his daughter as motivation to do well as he pursues his education and career.

Ramos says his goal is to be a structural engineer with an emphasis on safer building and sustainable design for low-income housing.

Ramos will receive the award in a ceremony at Dumke Auditorium in Long Beach on Sept. 21 at 3 p.m.

One student from each of the 23 CSU campuses has been selected to receive the award.

He will be awarded $3,000 for exemplifying scholarship criteria including superior academic performance, exemplary community service, and significant personal achievements. The scholarship is a partnership between the William Randolph Hearst
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Foundation and the CSU Board of Trustees.

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