



## News

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# Cal Poly Engineering Donor Endows Project-Based Learning

SAN LUIS OBISPO – Paul R. Bonderson, Jr. is such a staunch supporter of Cal Poly's learn-by-doing educational focus that he donated the money for the \$8 million Bonderson Projects Center dedicated solely to student projects.

Now, the 1975 electrical engineering grad has given Cal Poly an additional \$550,000 to generate ongoing funds for those projects.

The gift establishes an endowment that will provide salary support for technicians who staff the Bonderson Projects Center as well as grants for equipment and materials, faculty expenses and team travel to conferences and competitions such as the National Concrete Canoe Competition, the Shell Eco-Marathon, the Formula Hybrid Competition and the Solar Decathlon. Cal Poly teams consistently perform well in these contests. The Cal Poly Concrete Canoe team, for example, won a national championship in June.



"I believe students get so much out of these national contests," Bonderson said. "I love coming back to campus and seeing all the great student projects, especially the cutting-edge vehicles," Bonderson said. "And I'm especially interested in supporting club projects."

Named the "Bonderson Fund for Project Based Learning," the endowment prioritizes multidisciplinary, cross-department and cross-college group projects because, Bonderson said, these types of activities "duplicate what happens in industry."

Part of Bonderson's gift also supports the Baker Endowment for Excellence in Project-Based Learning. "I included \$50,000 for the Baker Endowment," Bonderson said, "because I want all students at Cal Poly to have the benefit of hands-on projects."

### About Paul Bonderson

Currently president of Lone Oak Ventures LLC, Paul R. Bonderson, Jr. is the former vice president of engineering and the

co-founder of Brocade Communications Systems Inc., a leading provider of infrastructure solutions for Storage Area Networks.

A 2001 College of Engineering Honored Alumnus, Bonderson is a long-standing member and former chair of the College of Engineering Dean's Advisory Council and was a member of the college's Centennial Campaign Committee. He is a founding member of the Cal Poly Foundation board.

In November, 2006, the university dedicated the Bonderson Projects Center, the first building on campus funded entirely by a private, individual donor.

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