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Cal Poly Student Design Wins Bank of America Low-Income Housing Challenge

SAN LUIS OBISPO – An interdisciplinary team of Cal Poly students earned first place in the 22nd annual Bank of America Low-Income Housing Challenge, a regional competition. This is the third time in three years that Cal Poly has won the competition.

Team members included business administration major Cameron Anvari; city and regional planning students Brian Harrington, Nuri Cho, Andrew Levins, Emily Gerger and Tim McGarvey; and architecture graduate student Smita Naik.

Together they created The Cambria Pines, a development proposal for an affordable housing project located in Cambria, Calif. It was described as “masterful,” “innovative,” and “realistic” by Gail Lannoy, community development banking executive for Bank of America.

Mindful of California’s ongoing water shortage problems, Cal Poly students proposed a design that would reduce water and electricity requirements using solar panels and natural light, gray water irrigation and rainwater collection. The concept also creates an accessible trail to the downtown area.

Ken Trigueiro of People’s Self Help Housing, partnered with the team.

About the Bank of America Low-Income Housing Challenge:

The competition requires student teams to develop concepts, designs, community support and financing for housing projects that are affordable for low-income households. The proposals are evaluated on concept and design as well as financial feasibility. Bank of America sponsors the competition to encourage emerging leaders in the fields of architecture, business and city planning to pursue careers in affordable housing.

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