

Cal Poly San Luis Obispo's Band Program:
The Responsibilities, the Development and its Significance

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by

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Introduction

“College students don’t have to be music majors to participate in [band]. Only about a quarter of the membership in [band] are music majors; the rest are students majoring in a variety of academic subjects...These enthusiastic students choose [band] to play their instruments¹,” Doris Valliant, author of *Going to College*, explains. To choose to be a part of the band program at a university may be about fulfilling one’s enjoyment of playing their instrument, but it is also about the service and important role they provide, influencing and impacting the university. Thus, allowing college band programs to be the success that they are.

This paper, will be about the specific roles and responsibilities that the band program of the Music Department at Cal Poly had to take on, why it was first created, how it has evolved over time, and how these factors are significant to the students, the faculty, and the university. Over the years, it was able to expand into several different bands, and this paper will show how it was able to successfully do that and how it helped keep the university maintain its reputation. College bands are mostly meant for entertainment and to help maintain a sense of school spirit on campus, but considering that Cal Poly is a polytechnic school, many would wonder why such a university would ever put so much time and money on something such as a band program. Although Cal Poly is more commonly and originally known for its engineering, agriculture and architecture colleges, offering the band program on campus has given students the opportunity to leave a mark on the university in a different but successful aspect, allowing the program to still be around to this day.

To be able to offer these types of programs at many universities, students have a chance

¹ Doris Valliant, "Chapter 4: Band and Guard," *Going To College* (January 2003): 38, *MAS Ultra - School Edition*, EBSCOhost, accessed March 3, 2016.

to allow music to influence their school significantly in a way one would not expect, with California universities being some of these schools. San Jose State University, for example, has had a band program since 1915, when their music department was fully established.² Their marching band, specifically, has the unique opportunity to broaden the scope of their university experience through interaction with students representing a wide variety of disciplines from various schools within the university.³ Many other California university band programs can also say that they are a major entertainment group on their campuses to help maintain school spirit and growing support on campus. Not only do they have the chance to entertain their school and different audiences, but they also have the ability to represent their university in a positive and unique way. There is not a lot of scholarly research on this specific topic, but Doris Valliant explores this idea in her book, *Going to College*, and explains that it is more than just about the music. The time and dedication put into this extracurricular lets students give back to their university through a different, but special way. Also looking at secondary sources that discuss the history and overview of California university band programs, I discover that although all of these band programs have a similar purpose to achieve, certain trends reveal that these universities and Cal Poly have both similarities and differences.

The argument here is that Cal Poly's band program is essential, for it is very significant and influential to the university for several reasons. To help explain these reasons, and get a better and personal sense of the band program, I interviewed Christopher Woodruff, one of the many music teachers at Cal Poly and is also quite known for being the marching band director.

² San Jose State University Music Department, "History," <http://www.sjsu.edu>, last modified August 4, 2014, http://www.sjsu.edu/music/alumni_community/history/, accessed March 3, 2016.

³ San Jose State University Music Department, "Band," <http://www.sjsu.edu>, last modified May 21, 2014, http://www.sjsu.edu/music/current_students/degree_plans/ensembles/band/, accessed March 3, 2016.

Woodruff was able to answer a few general questions about the band program, such as the difference of what band was like when it first began compared to how it is today, about their philosophies and goals, and the students that are involved. For a polytechnic school, no one would think Cal Poly could have such a successful band program, or a great music department in general. But with the passion and enthusiasm that the band program has been able to offer since the beginning of its time, it has helped the university keep the school spirit alive and bring a positive impact wherever it goes. The first band was created in 1916,⁴ and for it to blossom into something of a huge success shows how much they were able to offer to Cal Poly throughout the years. Thus, the band program, and the Music Department overall, is a very important piece to the university for it has made a huge impression on the people of Cal Poly and even those outside of the school's community.

This argument is important and unique to approach because although the band program is an optional part of a student's college experience and is known to be an extracurricular for those who are not majoring or minoring in music, those who decide to be a part of it learn how big of an impact it is to Cal Poly, in terms of the positive representation it helps maintain on and off campus. To be able to offer this type of program on campus, students are given the option to take up the role of influencing the people of Cal Poly in a way another department may not be able to and are able to represent Cal Poly's special motto, "Learn by Doing," in a truly unique way.

The Program During the World Wars

The beginning of Cal Poly bands emerged in 1916 under the direction of Major D.W.

⁴ *Polytechnic Journal*, "School Notes," June 1916, 32, Special Collections and Archives, California Polytechnic State University.

Schlosser.⁵ Outside of the music department, he was an influencing role to the military department on campus; without him the department would not have become what it was. Schlosser, with the help of Major Johnston, was able to get the good out of the department without any trouble and trained the cadets to be the best they can be.⁶ The first band to be established was after World War I had started. It was used for military purposes, such as drilling for parades and marching alongside other battalions, which were large groups of troops that were preparing for the war if they were to be drafted⁷; in this case, troops that were students at Cal Poly. At the time, to establish such a band, the school purchased eighteen musical instruments during the year⁸ to be able to complete the band. Within a year of establishing a military band, Schlosser and the help of lieutenants Scarlett and Martinsen, were able to form an excellency, which is when an organization is honored and respected for its accomplishments. Of course, it came with the dedication of long, hard hours of regular practice under an accomplished bandmaster, who conducted the band.⁹ They performed and marched in military formation to support campus events such as the Poly Royal or even football games, for example, while providing a level of pomp and circumstance, a title given to certain military marches at ceremonies or events, and excitement in a way that only a band would be able to.¹⁰ Establishing a military band gave Cal Poly the opportunity to represent themselves in a more aggressive and

⁵ Cal Poly Music Department, "Overview & History," *The Cal Poly Mustang Band*, last modified 2015, <http://mband.calpoly.edu/about/>, accessed February 24, 2016.

⁶ *Polytechnic Journal*, "Cadets," June 1916, pg 20, Special Collections and Archives, California Polytechnic State University.

⁷ Cal Poly Music Department, "Overview & History," *The Cal Poly Mustang Band*, last modified 2015, <http://mband.calpoly.edu/about/>, accessed February 24, 2016.

⁸ *Polytechnic Journal*, "School Notes," June 1916, pg 32, Special Collections and Archives, California Polytechnic State University.

⁹ *Polytechnic Journal*, "Military," June 1917, pg 43, Special Collections and Archives, California Polytechnic State University.

¹⁰ Christopher Woodruff, personal interview, February 25, 2016.

warlike perspective, which was an advantage, especially with World War I happening and the United States could declare war on the enemy at any given moment. Incorporating the military life at Cal Poly also gave the school hope that on-campus military training would reduce the number of students quitting to enlist into the war. Offering this kind of training to students allowed them to train for the military but were also able to finish their studies at the same time. Robert W. Ryder, the director of Cal Poly at the time, reported that, “Since the declaration of war in excess of 116 students have enlisted. This is the highest percentage within the Director’s knowledge of any school in the country.¹¹” Offering military training to the students gave them the chance to really prepare for the war and be aware of what could happen causing a huge interest to the war; with the increase in the amount of Cal Poly students enlisted during World War I, it was able to represent the university nationwide as one of the most patriotic campuses during the war.

When the United States entered World War II in 1941, Cal Poly did their part again and did the best to contribute to the war. Cal Poly decided to become a Naval Flight Preparatory School from 1943 to 1946.¹² Unfortunately, Cal Poly decided to suspend the *El Rodeo* and the school newspaper from publishing anything during World War II due to publication becoming too great of a problem¹³, so it is unsure if the band program was active during this time. But after the war had ended, the music department overall was able to start where it left off before the war had happened. In 1946, the music department made a great deal of progress towards getting back

¹¹ *Cal Poly: The First Hundred Years* (San Luis Obispo: Robert E. Kennedy Library, California Polytechnic State University, 2001).

¹² Robert E. Kennedy, “How to Work for the Navy on Dry Land,” *Learn By Doing: Memoirs of a University President: A Personal Journey with the Seventh President of California Polytechnic State University* (San Luis Obispo: California Polytechnic State University, 2001).

¹³ *El Rodeo*, “Mustang Roundup,” 1946, pg 48, Special Collections and Archives, California Polytechnic State University.

to peacetime operations, especially with Cal Poly no longer being a Naval Flight Preparatory School. With the war just ending, a majority of the students in the department were still navy men, but as the sailors started to leave, the organizations were continually changing, eventually only consisting of civilian students.¹⁴ Although it was harder for the band program to remain active during World War II, they were able to overcome the difficulties of reconversion. The members at the time deserved a great deal of credit for maintaining the proud reputation of Cal Poly's band program, and the music department in general.¹⁵

The Transition and Expansion of the Bands

Since the purpose of the first band at Cal Poly was militaristic, this excluded the female population on campus. During this time period, women were not allowed to enlist into the war, serving them no purpose to do any type of military training. This caused them to want to get involved and start their own music group. There were actually a lot more musical instruments received than Schlosser was expecting when first creating a band, so the girls decided to form their own orchestra and take lessons from Schlosser himself.¹⁶ With a lot of interest shown in the organization of the women's orchestra, they put a lot of hard work and effort into establishing their own group and were very prominent in the band work that was given by Schlosser.¹⁷ Their purpose was not militaristic, but instead, it was to simply add on to the entertainment and school spirit aspect of what a music group does. This purpose allowed them to represent the university in a positive way without using discipline or training. Although the military band excluded

¹⁴ *El Rodeo*, "Music Department," 1946, pg 50, Special Collections and Archives, California Polytechnic State University.

¹⁵ *Ibid*, pg 51.

¹⁶ *Polytechnic Journal*, "Society," June 1916, pg 53, Special Collections and Archives, California Polytechnic State University.

¹⁷ *Polytechnic Journal*, "The Juniors," June 1917, pg 28, Special Collections and Archives, California Polytechnic State University.

women from joining, it led to the expansion of what the band program has become today; this exclusion sparked change and new ideas.

For a couple of years, after Schlosser stepped down as director, the band was not able to function for a number of reasons: it was hard to bring a group of boys together who knew anything about music and many instruments were not always available to students who hoped to learn, and most importantly, there was no one who was capable of instructing the band at the time.¹⁸ Fortunately, in 1926, Mr. Merrit B. Smith stepped up and became the next band director, and it soon became very efficient again.¹⁹ The year 1927 proved to be the best year Cal Poly band has ever seen so far; there were thirty members in the band during this time, so only one music professor was needed.²⁰ Also, with the war being over since 1918, there was no need for a military band anymore, revealing that when the world changes, the purpose of bands change as well. With there being no real purpose for a military band, this caused the transition to a regular band and the addition of an orchestra and the saxophone novelty band for students who wanted something different.²¹ This transition is also seen in the Cal Poly yearbooks, the Polytechnic Journals and then the El Rodeo later on, when military was no longer a section of the yearbook after World War I ended. Although the military band eventually came to an end, what the band program transitioned to was able to represent the university just as well.

Throughout the years, after Smith had stepped down and decided to retire, several directors were able to keep up with what Smith was able to bring back to Cal Poly's band program. Over time, the Cal Poly band program was much more than just the regular band, the

¹⁸ *Polytechnic Journal*, "Band," June 1925, pg 58, Special Collections and Archives, California Polytechnic State University.

¹⁹ *Ibid.*

²⁰ *El Rodeo*, "Band," 1927, pg 34, Special Collections and Archives, California Polytechnic State University.

²¹ *Ibid*, pg 34-35.

orchestra, the saxophone novelty band. As time went on, Cal Poly received recognition for how successful it had become as a university, causing an increase in student population. With more students on campus, there was also an increase in interests and preferences if one were to participate in the band program, causing an experiment with expanding the band program by adding new, different groups. The introduction of the Symphonic Band, which is now known as the Cal Poly Wind Ensemble and Wind Orchestra, was when the ensemble made their first appearance at The American Bandmasters Association (ABA) in March 1991 at Arizona State University.²² There is also the Cal Poly Symphony, which is an orchestra that was first formed in the mid-1960s by a faculty member from the Music Department, Emanuel Heifetz. They took advantage of being a strong ensemble by playing a wide repertoire of works and were successful as a group ever since.²³ Then there is the Mustang Marching Band, or better known as the “Pride of the Pacific,” that was first established in the 1960s when William V. “J” Johnson was the director. They are known for their performances at athletic events, including, but not limited to, football, men’s and women’s basketball and volleyball²⁴ for they also have off campus events they perform for, such as going on “Good Morning SLO²⁵.” Although these groups have been nothing but successful, students are not limited to just joining these groups. There are other ensembles on campus for those who prefer a different style in music. There are the University Jazz Bands, and ensembles such as the String Ensembles or the Brass Ensembles.

²² Cal Poly Music Department, “About,” *The Cal Poly Wind Ensemble and Wind Orchestra*, last modified 2016, <http://windorchestra.calpoly.edu/about/>, accessed February 24, 2016.

²³ Cal Poly Music Department, “History,” *The “Cal Poly Little Symphony,”* last modified 2016, <http://symphony.calpoly.edu/history>, accessed February 24, 2016.

²⁴ Cal Poly Music Department, “Overview & History,” *The Cal Poly Mustang Band*, last modified 2015, <http://mband.calpoly.edu/about/>, accessed February 24, 2016.

²⁵ SLO Chamber of Commerce, “Good Morning San Luis Obispo,” *SLO Chamber*, last modified January 2016, <http://www.slochamber.com/cm/Reoccurring%20Events/GMSLO/GMSLO%20January%2009.html>, accessed March 3, 2016.

With the addition of these ensembles, it has helped Cal Poly's band program maintain what it is. However, [because] we don't have as large a music major here, we don't quite have the [same] level of talent coming in compared to other universities.²⁶ Cal Poly's band program may not be considered one of the best in the nation, but the thirteen different ensembles the program offers²⁷ and the amount of hard working, driven students who participate, is astounding compared to other California universities. "We [still] have students who know how to work and many of them are majoring in non-musical endeavors but they're able to apply their skills, their intelligence, their work habits. Whatever got them into Cal Poly, they are able to apply it in the band program and it's actually quite successful in that way. Whereas we don't have the raw talent coming in, our students make up for it and apply the ability²⁸," Woodruff states.

Compared to other California universities, Cal Poly's expansion of ensembles are somewhat different and unique for two possible reasons: culture and budgets. When it comes to culture, it is always different for every school. Each city has different demographics, where one race could make up more than another race. Cal Poly Pomona, for example, has a variety of ensembles in their band program like Cal Poly does, but a unique music group they have is a Mariachi band.²⁹ Cal Poly Pomona's enrollment figures reveal that out of the 23,966 students enrolled this school year, 9,052 of them were Hispanic or Latino, making up almost 40% of the student population.³⁰ With such a huge population consisting of Hispanics and Latinos, the

²⁶ Woodruff.

²⁷ Cal Poly Music Department, "Ensembles," *Cal Poly Ensembles*, last modified May 14, 2011, <http://music.calpoly.edu/ensembles/>, accessed March 3, 2016.

²⁸ Woodruff.

²⁹ Cal Poly Pomona Department of Music, "Ensembles," *Cal Poly Pomona Ensembles*, last modified 2016, <https://www.cpp.edu/~class/music/ensembles/index.shtml#mariachi>, accessed March 3, 2016.

³⁰ Cal Poly Pomona, "Facts & Figures," *Cal Poly Pomona: About Our University*, last modified 2016, <https://www.cpp.edu/~aboutcpp/calpolypomona-overview/facts-and-figures.shtml>, accessed March 3, 2016.

university is heavily influenced by their cultures, which could be a main reason why a Mariachi band was created.

In terms of budgets, this is always different as well, depending on how well universities receive their funds. Cal Poly is known to heavily rely on donations given by alumni students. To have this kind of money, departments can expand and it can be a lot easier to improve programs, such as the band program. The Mustang Marching Band, for instance, is considered a part of the Athletics Department, whereas other universities might not be. But because Cal Poly's marching band is considered a part of the athletics, some of their funds are through them, allowing them travel to off campus events. Author Doris Valliant even explains, "Unlike many bands supported by the university music or athletic departments, the [Cal Band of the University of California at Berkeley] must raise funds to meet over half of its budget."³¹ Unfortunately, not all college band programs are as appreciated and acknowledged whereas Cal Poly's is given a lot of recognition. Although Cal Poly's band program is not necessarily influenced by culture a lot of the time, many of the funds it receives is another factor that gives it a chance to advance and keep growing, allowing students to continue to be a part of a program that lets them leave a lasting impact on their university.

The Entertainment Aspect and its Effect

As the band program developed and became more successful, their involvement on campus has progressed as well. The band program, and the Music Department in general, may not necessarily be the most appreciated at Cal Poly, but the students who decide to take part in it are "smart, goal-oriented, and they can get a lot of work done," Woodruff says. Putting in the

³¹ Doris Valliant, "Chapter 4: Band and Guard," *Going To College* (January 2003): 38, *MAS Ultra - School Edition*, EBSCOhost, accessed March 3, 2016.

effort and dedication, it allows the program to achieve the excellence they have. With enough rehearsals and time to prepare, all of the groups involved in the band program have the chance to present what they have worked hard on by hosting concerts and other relevant events. In 2009, when putting together a concert, Cal Poly Music Professor and Director of Bands William Johnson said, “We really want to give people an experience.”³² When people attend a concert, one would want them to have such a good experience that they will want to come back for another if they had the opportunity. These performances have really paid off and can be recognized through the invitations received by the university to give these groups a chance to perform at campus events like the athletic events or Open House, for example. Being able to perform at these kind of events also lets these groups be seen by the eyes of people who would not necessarily consider going to a band concert, which allows them to be recognized by individuals who might have a performance opportunity for any one of the groups in the band program. For instance, when the Mustang Marching Band was first invited to the Southwest Airlines Chinese New Year Parade in San Francisco, California simply because a member of the organizing committee of the parade saw their performance at a ceremony for the Warren J. Baker Center for Science and Mathematics.³³ To perform at on-campus events allows more doors to open for the program. The opportunity to perform beyond campus events may deal with money and traveling, but being able to perform to different audiences gives the band program the chance to entertain and move people other than their friends and family. It also gives the school great publicity and enables Cal Poly to represent themselves in a positive, but different aspect other

³² Omar Sanchez, “Wind Ensemble puts memories of D-Day to music,” *Mustang Daily* (San Luis Obispo, CA), June 4, 2009.

³³ Mustang News Staff, “Mustang Marching Band to Perform in Chinese New Year Parade.” *Mustang Daily* (San Luis Obispo, CA), February 8, 2015.

than how well the university is doing in terms of academics or sports. To have the opportunity to entertain people through performances, on and off of campus, improves not just the band program, but the university's reputation.

School Spirit and its Effect

Not only does the band program get to show off their hard work through their performances and to entertain crowds, but they have the ability to encourage school spirit on campus. Although most of the groups are known mainly for their performances at concerts and other events, the Mustang Marching Band has a great method of spreading school spirit throughout campus by pumping up the crowd at football games, basketball games and women's volleyball games. Over all the responsibilities the marching band has, "the band's main reason for performing is to support the three specific sports teams," Jeffrey Brown, the co drum major in 2013, states in an interview.³⁴ They do everything it takes to support the athletics, even if it means additional rehearsals and time out of students' schedules. The students who choose to participate in the marching band give all their energy and spirit into the music they play, the work they choreograph, and the strenuous chants they cheer. "We've been told by the teams that we have an impact on their games," Brown said.³⁵ It is a lot harder for the audience to rile each other up which is something essential for our sports teams to stay motivated. The marching band has also helped keep up the school spirit when trying to add life to campus events, like Open House or the Week of Welcome. Being able to bring the right positivity and enthusiasm to events, they are able to contribute to the university by supporting different departments and other groups on campus.

³⁴ Allison Montroy, "Mustang Band: the faces behind the music." *Mustang Daily* (San Luis Obispo, CA), January 2, 2013.

³⁵ *Ibid.*

Overall Significance

Despite the fact that Cal Poly is recognized for its engineering and agriculture departments, being a part of the band program is a unique way of “learning by doing.” Students are learning skills that go beyond instruments; they are learning how to operate as an organization – to learn how to take leadership roles, learning to be creative, and earning the value of the sum being greater than the total of its parts³⁶ while keeping up with their academics and other responsibilities as best as they can. It is a major time commitment that can become more difficult each year as students juggle academic classes, maintain grade point averages, and work part-time jobs.³⁷

Although the main purpose of participating in a band is to perform music one has learned to play over a course of time and improve one’s ability to play an instrument, it is much more than that. The purpose of the band when it was first established was to support university events, which is still mostly true today. But now, it is also about being given the opportunity to be of worthwhile service to [the] university³⁸, and to experience and learn valuable life lessons from it. The work that is given can be tough, and the time commitment is even more difficult, but the discipline and work ethic band members develop over time become life-long skills that carry over into their future professional lives.³⁹ It may just be an extracurricular to most students, but for others it can change and influence the paths of their future.

³⁶ Woodruff.

³⁷ Doris Valliant, "Chapter 4: Band and Guard," *Going To College* (January 2003): 38, *MAS Ultra - School Edition*, EBSCOhost, accessed March 3, 2016.

³⁸ Cal Poly Music Department Brochure, Box 1 Folder 16, 410.05.05 Music Department Records, Special Collections and Archives, California Polytechnic State University.

³⁹ Doris Valliant, "Chapter 4: Band and Guard," *Going To College* (January 2003): 38, *MAS Ultra - School Edition*, EBSCOhost, accessed March 3, 2016.

The activities of the performing groups are not only educational and cultural, but they are social and recreational as well.⁴⁰ Being a part of this type of program allows students to expand their network of friends and increase their available resources while also relieving stress due to school and other personal issues that could be going on. Especially for those who commit to more than a year of participating in the band program; not only are they gaining more knowledge and improving their musical abilities, but these students are able to get to know their professors a lot better who could introduce to them new opportunities and can be useful for references, or just simple advice. Another social advantage to joining the program is that even though many students who decide to participate are usually not music majors, this program allows Cal Poly to bring students from all departments together [to create] a close knit group.⁴¹ This shows that the commitment to staying in the band program for a long amount of time allows these students to get to know their peers a lot better as well, generating a better amount of connections and establishing friendships that could last a lifetime.

It is not just the students who benefit from this, but it is also valuable to the faculty and the university. In order to maintain such a successful band program, the students and faculty must both be able to come into it with a fresh and open-minded attitude. To allow something to improve and get better over time, changes and innovations usually occur. Although one must consider the risks and negative consequences with trying to make change happen, it allows one to discover if it works or not, rather than always having doubts. This viewpoint towards change is what allowed the band program to be where it is today. If Cal Poly maintained a military band

⁴⁰ Cal Poly Music Department Brochure, Box 1 Folder 16, 410.05.05 Music Department Records, Special Collections and Archives, California Polytechnic State University.

⁴¹ California Polytechnic State University 32nd Home Concert, Folder 4, 410.05.05.01 Harold P. Davidson, Special Collection and Archives, California Polytechnic State University.

even after World War I, it may not have lead to what the band program has become over time. To be traditional and keep things the same way can be understandable under certain circumstances, but there comes a point where change needs to occur. William Johnson, for example, who was the professor of music and conductor of the Wind Ensemble in 2006 stated that the ensemble constantly researche[d] ways to create a more innovative sound and often incorporate[d] nontraditional instruments into its pieces.⁴² Although they decided to lean towards a much different style, breaking away from what a normal school band would do, Johnson believes that because “today’s composers are creating new sounds and breaking away from a normal sound...We don’t want to give them what they want all the time; we want to stretch them a little bit.”⁴³ To be open to and willing to try new things gives this group a chance to be able to attract a more modern audience. Even if there are risk factors when experimenting, a lot of it pays off in the long run and the faculty’s work is never underappreciated.

The success of Cal Poly’s band program is not entirely because of the change and evolution in their music styles, but it is also about the change in their ultimate goal and the philosophy of what the band program is at the university for today. Back when the band first started in 1916, a music major was never considered to be in the picture, “so you weren’t meant to come out of the experience learning to play your instrument better necessarily, or to teach music,”⁴⁴ Woodruff explains. Over the course of time, the program eventually has revolved around this idea, when music was finally offered as a major. “And now that we have a major in the department, we’re meant to be a musical ensemble,” Woodruff adds. To have this major

⁴² Ryan Chartrand, “Wind Ensemble’s Innovative Style Travels the World,” *Mustang Daily* (San Luis Obispo, CA), December 9, 2006.

⁴³ *Ibid.*

⁴⁴ Woodruff.

available to students now gives the band program, and the music department, another very important reason to be around. It is also about learning to leave Cal Poly and be able to contribute to one's community, partaking in a community band or deciding to teach music, thus the band program is not just providing a service to the university, but it is also providing a service to the students that are involved in these groups.⁴⁵ This reveals that what the band program wants students to get out of being a part of it is to carry on the lessons and experiences they learned from it and apply them to other significant moments or challenges in their lives. The band program is no longer about representing Cal Poly through patriotism or militaristic training, it is about representing the university in a positive perspective while allowing the students and faculty to benefit from it as well by being able to serve to their on and off campus communities.

Conclusion

Cal Poly may be a polytechnic school and may be more commonly known for its other departments, but to offer a band program is just as important to the student body. Students who participate in the program are able to give back to its university through music, which can be moving and influencing in a different aspect compared to being a part of a club or the athletic department. To have the right mindset when serving to Cal Poly leads to triumph and hard work that has paid off. With the help of dedication, innovations and new ideas, these factors have allowed the program to be successful and become what it is today.

⁴⁵ Woodruff.

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