

OUR STUDENTS, YOUR CHILDREN, EVERYONE'S FUTURE

PARENTS PHILANTHROPY COUNCIL DRIVES SUPPORT FOR EXCEPTIONAL EDUCATION

BY SCOTT ROARK



THE CAL POLY STUDENT BODY is a critical piece of our society's potential, shaping the leaders, innovators and world citizens of tomorrow.

Parents more than anyone understand this. Many have joined the effort for critical private support as members of the newly formed Parents Philanthropy Council, with a focus on maintaining and increasing the exceptional value of a Cal Poly education.

"The Parents Philanthropy Council was formed to educate parents about the importance of private support for Cal Poly and

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how it enhances their students' education," said Cal Poly Vice President of Advancement Sandra Ogren. "It also provides an opportunity to raise funds that support the student experience at Cal Poly, engaging parents as key volunteers for the campus."

Approximately 10 percent of the university's budget comes from private gifts and donations, a percentage that is expected to rapidly increase in the coming years due to dwindling state support. This comes as the global marketplace becomes increasingly competitive.

Last year, parents gave approximately 7,800 gifts to Cal Poly totaling just over \$1.8 million. Cal Poly has the highest giving level from parents of any of the 23 CSU campuses. The



Leslie Daniels (above), Karen Fisher (below)

council hopes to reinforce and expand on that record. During their student's time at Cal Poly, parents will receive letters and phone calls from students and parents, seeking support for the Cal Poly Parent Fund.

One parent and council member is Leslie Daniels, who currently has two sons, Thomas and Daniel Logue, attending Cal Poly. "More than state funding is needed to cover the entire cost of educating our students," said Daniels, who serves as the council's regional chair for the Bay Area. "Generous donations help fund scholarships, programs, projects, laboratories and other resources for our students."

Another council member is Karen Fisher, the council's regional chair for the Central Valley. Fisher's husband, Ron, earned his

bachelor's and master's degrees from Cal Poly. Their son, Blake, and daughter, Becca, are current students. "Cal Poly is very special to my family. I hope that it will become, or continue to be, an important part of everyone's family as well," she said.

The formation of the parent's council comes on the heels of the also newly formed Student Philanthropy Council, the first organization of its kind in Cal Poly's history. It involves student leaders in philanthropic projects, educates students about the benefits of private support, and promotes an awareness and appreciation of philanthropy among students. The student philanthropy council establishes a line of communication between Cal Poly Foundation Board members, alumni and students. □

The Parent's Philanthropy Council has seven founding members, and more are joining to volunteer and help spread the word. For more information, contact Anne Harris, director of campaign and donor relations, at 805-756-7468 or anharris@calpoly.edu.