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## Cal Poly Contingent To Bring Sustainable Technology to Malawi

SAN LUIS OBISPO – An interdisciplinary team from the Cal Poly Honors Program is traveling to Malawi in September to teach sustainable rural irrigation practices designed to foster social and economic equality and stability.

The Cal Poly team will assess various strategies and technologies for the likelihood of long-term success given economic, cultural and environmental constraints in the south-east region of Africa.

Empowering women through training and micro-enterprise opportunities is considered critical to the success of their efforts, according to Sema Alptekin, director of the Honors Program. To bolster long-term success, the team will meet with the Malawi Ministry of Irrigation and Water Development, and both male and female chiefs. They will also teach sustainable applications to widows and young adults.

To enhance crop production in rural areas, Cal Poly Honors students designed, manufactured and produced prototype applications, including a bicycle-powered water pump. Strategies to increase sustainable crop production include companion planting – growing certain crops together that supplement each other's growth; crop rotation – alternating between plots to maintain soil quality; and contour ridging – strategic ridge-building to retain water and prevent top soil erosion.

The project is partly funded by a grant from the Jimmy & Rosalyn Carter Partnership Foundation [www.jrcpf.org](http://www.jrcpf.org). Team members are seeking additional support to meet travel expenses. Contributions may be made payable to Cal Poly. Please write "Malawi Appropriate Technology Team" in the memo field of the check. Mail donations to Cheri Baumgarten, University Honors Program, Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo, CA, 93407.

The Malawi team is available for presentations to local businesses and nonprofit organizations. For more information, contact Lori Atwater at 805-215-8515 or go online to [www.sustainableuniverse.org](http://www.sustainableuniverse.org).

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