



A COLLABORATION FOR STUDENT SUCCESS

A COLLECTIVE EFFORT TO SUPPORT LEARN BY DOING

BY MARY MCNALLY



“GROWING UP ON A FARM IN CALIFORNIA, I already had Learn by Doing experience,” said John Salmonson (**B.S., Crop Production, 1967**), owner of Monterey AgResources. “When I went to Cal Poly, it was like a finishing school preparing me for the workforce.”

Today, much of Cal Poly’s Learn by Doing philosophy is applied in cooperative, multidisciplinary projects that resemble real-world situations. Students work in teams to support the effort of the group, producing an effect greater than the sum of its parts.

In a creative twist, Salmonson and other donors are applying the same collaborative philosophy, coming together from a cross-section of industry to create an enduring fund that will support Learn by Doing in the College of Agriculture, Food and Environmental Sciences.

Ten Founding Partners have together committed \$1 million in total – half of the \$2 million goal for the Learn by Doing Endowment. The endowment will support students in laboratories and in the field; allow for small class sizes that enhance student-faculty interactions; and provide for student projects and competitions that help develop whole-system thinkers.

“Cal Poly gave me a good education,” said Rich Krizo (**B.S., Agricultural Business, 1970**) president of Pacific Appraisal Consultants, Inc., and Investor-level donor. Krizo said he learned how to assess goals and create a strategy to achieve them. Most of all, he said, the hands-on education gave him the confidence to know, “I can do it.”

At Cal Poly, Learn by Doing means more than just the classroom, said Salmonson, a Founding Partner with his wife, Carol. “You have labs and then you take what you learned into the field and see it happen.

“I’m convinced it works. We prefer to hire Cal Poly grads. They’re more mature and more prepared than other grads. They’re a year ahead of other new hires – at least.” □