

# U.S. NEWS NAMES CAL POLY BEST IN THE WEST FOR 19TH YEAR

FOR THE 19TH STRAIGHT YEAR, Cal Poly has been rated the best public-master's university in the West in U.S. News & World Report's 2012 America's Best Colleges guidebook.

Cal Poly ranked seventh in the magazine's overall list of the West's best universities, including both public and private institutions that provide "a full range of undergraduate and master's-level programs but few, if any, doctoral programs." U.S. News ranks colleges that grant doctoral degrees, such as those in the University of California system, in a separate category. "We are pleased that U.S. News has again recognized Cal Poly as Best in the West," said Cal Poly President Jeffrey D. Armstrong. "We believe the dedication and commitment of our faculty and staff to our students along with our renowned Learn by Doing philosophy make this annual achievement possible. We couldn't be more proud."

Cal Poly's College of Engineering program was again named second best public master's engineering program in the country, just behind the U.S. Military Academy. □

# KATHLEEN ENZ FINKEN NAMED CAL POLY'S NEW PROVOST



KATHLEEN ENZ FINKEN has been named Cal Poly's new provost, making her the university's top administrator for academic affairs and the senior member of the president's executive management staff. Enz Finken, currently provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs at the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse, brings broad academic and administrative experience in public higher education to her new role. She will begin work in early February.

"Kathleen brings a wealth of experience to Cal Poly as a professor, college dean and provost," said Cal Poly President Jeffrey D. Armstrong. "She knows what works for students and understands their perspective as well as the perspectives of both faculty members and administrators. Kathleen's approach to problem solving will work well at Cal Poly. She is calm, thoughtful and collaborative but also persistent and focused on doing what is best for students' success. □



Crews place the last beam during steel construction on the new Center for Science and Mathematics.

# A CONSTRUCTION MILESTONE FOR CENTER FOR SCIENCE AND MATHEMATICS

THE CENTER FOR SCIENCE AND MATHEMATICS reached a milestone Sept. 15: placement of the final steel beam completing the framing structure of the six-story building. Gilbane Building Company held a private "Topping Out" ceremony for 200 subcontractors who have brought the project to this point. Also invited were about 100 Cal Poly physics, chemistry and soil science professors who will hold classes in the building.

THE \$132 MILLION, 197,000-SQUARE-FOOT BUILDING WAS MADE POSSIBLE BY VOTER-APPROVED STATE EDUCATION CONSTRUCTION BONDS AND \$20 MILLION IN PRIVATE DONATIONS TO CAL POLY.

Cal Poly President Jeffrey D. Armstrong and Phil Bailey, dean of the College of Science and Mathematics, spoke to the crowd about how much the center means to the university. Christopher Giese, a Cal Poly alum and Gilbane Building Company Project executive, also spoke.

The \$132 million, 197,000-square-foot building was made possible by voter-approved state education construction bonds and \$20 million in private donations to Cal Poly. The center is set to open in spring 2013. □





## CAL POLY MAKES FORBES BEST COLLEGES LIST FOR FOURTH STRAIGHT YEAR

FOR THE FOURTH YEAR IN A ROW, Cal Poly ranks on the Forbes magazine list of the countrys best colleges and universities. Cal Poly ranks No. 9 among Californias public universities and, just as last year, is the top-ranked California State University campus on the list. Cal Poly appears at No. 28 among the 50 private and public California universities and at No. 230 overall among the 650 U.S. campuses on the list. It is the fourth year Forbes has produced the list, with Cal Poly appearing each year. □

## DEBORAH READ NAMED CAL POLY'S NEW VICE PRESIDENT FOR UNIVERSITY ADVANCEMENT

DEBORAH READ, who brings nearly three decades of experience in higher education fundraising, has been named Cal Poly's new vice president for university advancement and CEO of the Cal Poly Foundation. Read currently serves as vice president for university advancement at the University of Dayton in Ohio.

In announcing the appointment, Cal Poly President Jeffrey D. Armstrong cited her breadth and depth as a career fundraiser and administrator. "Deborah has compiled a stellar career of achievement as a fundraiser and strategic planner of major capital campaigns on scales larger than Cal Poly has yet to undertake," Armstrong said. "In Deborah Read, I am confident that we are adding a proven leader with deep experience at a time when Cal Poly absolutely must develop more philanthropic support for our Learn by Doing programs." Read's appointment is effective Jan. 1. □

## CAL POLY ENGINEERING SWEEPS AIAA STUDENT AIRCRAFT DESIGN COMPETITION

CAL POLY ENGINEERING swept first-, second- and third-place awards in the undergraduate and graduate student design competition sponsored by the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics (AIAA).

In the undergraduate contest, teams were required to design an innovative heavy-lift hybrid air vehicle. The top prize went to Cal Poly's Mustang Aerospace team. The graduate student competition called for an electrically powered aircraft. Cal Poly's VoltAir team took top honors with The BLITZ Electric Aircraft. The teams were under the direction of faculty advisor Bruce Wright, joined by William Durgin for the graduate competition. "The fact that five of us were able to design nearly every aspect of a radically new airplane in a matter of months was the most impressive part of the whole competition," said Matt Handfelt, team lead for The BLITZ. "It tested our Learn by Doing mettle to the extreme. The intensity of challenges and deadlines required learning and doing almost simultaneously – and it showed us how far we could go."

The AIAA is the world's largest technical society dedicated to the global aerospace profession. □

## DEBRA LARSON IS THE NEW DEAN OF CAL POLY ENGINEERING

DEBRA LARSON IS THE NEW DEAN of Cal Poly Engineering. Most recently a civil engineering professor and Academic Affairs administrator with Northern Arizona University, Larson assumed her new role at Cal Poly in late summer.

"Debra understands Cal Poly thoroughly and brings an excellent blend of experience as an administrator and faculty member," Cal Poly President Jeffrey D. Armstrong said. "She knows that our primary mission is undergraduate education, that our highest priority is student success, and that Learn by Doing is an integral part of the Cal Poly experience."

Armstrong added that Larson's colleagues consistently praised her focus on student learning, her high energy and her uncanny ability to build consensus among peers. "Cal Poly has one of the nation's most respected engineering programs, yet everyone in the College of Engineering believes we can be even better, and Debra is the right person to help us enrich our program," Armstrong said. □

## KINESIOLOGY PROFESSOR AWARDED \$3 MILLION GRANT TO AID LOW-INCOME MOTHERS

A CAL POLY PROFESSOR HAS RECEIVED a \$3 million National Institutes of Health grant to develop new ways to help low-income mothers return to their pre-pregnancy weight within a year.

Kinesiology Professor Suzanne Phelan of Cal Poly's STRIDE center (Science through Translational Research in Diet and Exercise) will work with mothers in San Luis Obispo and Santa Barbara counties.

"High postpartum weight retention occurs in approximately 25 percent of young adult women. It's a significant predictor of long-term weight gain, obesity, and obesity-related health problems," Phelan said.

Phelan, STRIDE researchers and Cal Poly students will offer an online weight-loss program to a target group of 410 new mothers. It will be the first in the nation to document and evaluate the effects of an Internet-based postpartum weight loss program in low-income women. □

## CAL POLY'S MUSTANG DAILY STUDENT NEWSPAPER CONVERTS TO BROADSHEET

CAL POLY'S MUSTANG DAILY, the only daily university newspaper in the nation fully produced by students on campus, has converted from tabloid to broadsheet format.

The newspaper has been published on campus for more than 90 years. It is the go-to newspaper when students want to know what is happening on campus and in the community. The Mustang Daily also provides a direct way for local businesses to reach an audience that annually spends more than \$172 million dollars.

"One of the reasons we changed from tabloid to broadsheet is to allow our student editors to work on a similar platform to what they will find in the newspaper industry," said Paul Bit-tick, general manager of the Mustang Daily. "Advertisers are also pleased with the new format and improved color quality." □

A student displays a copy of the new broadsheet Mustang Daily.

