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California Polytechnic State University

Nov. 5, 2004

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Cupertino Electric Donates \$300,000 for Lab In New Construction Management Building at Cal Poly

SAN LUIS OBISPO - Cupertino Electric Inc., one of the state's most successful electrical contracting companies, is donating \$300,000 to help create a cutting-edge laboratory within a new building planned for Cal Poly's Construction Management Department and College of Architecture and Environmental Design (CAED).

The new Cupertino Electric Specialty Construction Laboratory will be located in Cal Poly's Center for Construction Excellence Building, which is scheduled to break ground in 2005 and be completed in the fall of 2007. A signing ceremony to formalize the gift will be held Tuesday, Nov. 9, at 4 p.m. in the Engineering West Building (Bldg. 21), B Lab.

The new laboratory will be designed to create an interactive environment for students learning about specialty contracting. Models, sample materials, marketing documents, contracts and other essential items related to subcontracting materials and practices will be used in the laboratory to enhance student learning.

The lab will emphasize both individual and case study-based group assignments drawn from actual projects constructed by industry partners. This will provide students firsthand experience to develop an appreciation for the complexity of the subcontracting industry and the central role that it plays in the success of residential, commercial and heavy/civil construction projects today, said Construction Management Department Head Allan Hauck.

It will also teach students about current trends in productivity and quality management employed by major subcontractors and how to estimate and schedule jobs, he said. Students will have the opportunity to practice the marketing, negotiating and communication skills needed for success in this industry and to explore career possibilities.

The donation is part of the CAED campaign to raise \$7.5 million in private gifts to help fund the new building. The college will also receive \$17 million in state funds for the project.

"CEI is a proud supporter of Cal Poly's educational vision. The Specialty Construction Lab will create

advanced learning opportunities for students, allowing hands-on experience while strengthening their knowledge base and broadening their career options in our industry. What a great way to contribute to the future," said John Boncher, branch manager of Cupertino Electric's San Jose operation.

"We are very pleased with the Construction Management Department's expanding partnerships with the specialty constructors who are critical to the success of our industry," Hauck said. "Increasingly, these contractors are responsible for the majority of work on all projects, and Cupertino Electric has been a significant leader in the broadening role of subcontracting. Its leadership in prefabrication has resulted in significant increases in productivity, benefiting the entire industry. We are proud to have Cupertino Electric join us as a partner in the Center for Construction Excellence."

For details, call the College of Architecture and Environmental Design at (805) 756-7432. For more information about Cupertino Electric Inc., visit www.cei.com.

About Cupertino Electric, Inc.

With more than 1,200 employees, CEI is one of the largest privately held electrical contractors in the United States, is the largest electrical contractor in Silicon Valley, and is perennially listed among the top 10 largest electrical contractors in the U.S. Total revenue in the year 2000 was \$746.2 million.

CEI has installed the electrical infrastructure for:

- . The first biotech facility in Silicon Valley
- . The first chip fabrication plant in Silicon Valley
- . More Internet data centers than any other electrical contractor in the U.S.

Founded in 1954 by Eugene A. Ravizza, who currently serves as chairman of the board.

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