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ENGINEERS' COUNCIL ACCREDITS POLY ENGINEERING CURRICULA

The engineering curricula of five departments of the School of Engineering have been accredited by the Engineers' Council for Professional Development. Dr. Archie Higdon, dean of the School of Engineering announced receipt of the ECPD approval today. A letter from Ernst Weber, president of the ECPD announced that all five Cal Poly engineering curricula presented for accreditation during the past year have received accreditation from the national organization.

Receiving accreditation are academic programs leading to Bachelor of Science degrees in aeronautical, electrical, electronic, industrial and mechanical engineering.

President Robert E. Kennedy, who received word of the accreditation while on vacation in South Dakota enroute to Yellowstone, said: "Congratulations to you and to the entire faculty of the School of Engineering for achieving ECPD accreditation in all five of the departments which submitted applications and were inspected by the review team. Achievement of ECPD accreditation was long overdue for Cal Poly; today's achievement is recognition of our past success and an even brighter forecast for the future. Over the years our Engineering faculty dedicated themselves to doing an outstanding job even without the recognition of accreditation by the Engineers' Council for Professional Development. This national recognition of the worthiness of our program should make us strive even more to maintain the distinctive nature and personality of our engineering and technology programs."

Dean Higdon commented, "The good news of this accreditation comes as a fine climax of two years of intensive work on the part of the faculty and administration to adjust Cal Poly's curricula to meet ECPD requirements and still maintain the distinctive characteristics of engineering education at Cal Poly."

A meeting of engineering faculty in Science E-27 Monday evening heard of the accreditation from Dean Higdon and studied the ECPD report, which evaluated such aspects of the curricula as physical facilities, faculty development, leadership, financial support, equipment, library facilities and resources.

The ECPD publishes annually a list of accredited engineering curricula offered by institutions of higher education in the United States, and will include Cal Poly's programs in the next edition, to appear in October. The sole national accrediting body for engineering, ECPD membership is composed of the following professional societies: American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics, American Institute of Chemical Engineers, American Institute of Industrial Engineers, American Nuclear Society, American Society of Agricultural Engineers, American Society of Civil Engineers, American Society for Engineering Education, American Institute of Mining, Metallurgical and Petroleum Engineers, National Council of Engineering Examiners, Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, Society of Automotive Engineers, and American Society of Mechanical Engineers.

Appreciation for outstanding support and cooperation in achieving accreditation was expressed by Dean Higdon "on behalf of all the faculty in the School of Engineering, to the entire staff, faculty, and administration of the College who brought about this success."