

[Skip to Content](#) ?

[my CalPoly login](#)



News

University News & Information

Admissions & Aid	Majors & Colleges	Research	Alumni Community	Campus Life	Athletics	About	>
--------------------------------------	---------------------------------------	--------------------------	----------------------------------	-----------------------------	---------------------------	-----------------------	----------------------

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Dec. 10, 2013

Contact: Amy Hewes
805-756-6402; ahewes@calpoly.edu

Cal Poly Women Engineers Awarded Gold for 10th Time

SAN LUIS OBISPO — With the theme, “Make connections, make history,” the recent Society of Women Engineers (SWE) National Conference helped Cal Poly make some history of its own. For the 10th time since 2002 and the third year in a row, the Cal Poly chapter received the Outstanding Collegiate Section Gold Award.

The conference also recognized the chapter’s advisor, Helene Finger, as the Outstanding SWE Counselor in the nation, citing her mentoring, outreach and leadership development achievements. Finger, who also directs the Women’s Engineering Program, was recognized “for extraordinary dedication to the Cal Poly collegiate members, for fostering a new generation of SWE leaders, and for promoting engineering to thousands of young women.”

Advisor to Cal Poly SWE since 2000, Finger has grown the collegiate section into one of the largest in the country. Her research in the areas of recruitment and retention of female engineering students was recently recognized by the American Society of Engineering Educators.

A Cal Poly SWE alumna, Sofia Leon, currently a doctoral student at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, was named 2013 Outstanding Collegiate Member — an achievement she credits to her Cal Poly SWE roots.

“My passion for SWE started at Cal Poly,” she said, “and I carried that with me to Illinois, where I started GradSWE for graduate students. From my experience at Cal Poly, I knew what it took to have a successful section, and I was able to bring that knowledge to Illinois to help grow the section.”

The Cal Poly SWE Team Tech was also honored, taking third place for its pharmaceutical recovery and rescue project, working with industry partner Mazetti Nash Lipsey Burch.

More than 6,000 aspiring women engineers attended the national conference, called WE13, held Oct. 24-26 in Baltimore, Md.

Related link:
<http://societyofwomenengineers.swe.org>

#



