

[Skip to Content](#) ?[my CalPoly login](#)

News

University News & Information

[Admissions & Aid](#)[Majors & Colleges](#)[Research](#)[Alumni Community](#)[Campus Life](#)[Athletics](#)[About](#)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 5, 2014

Contact: Amy Hewes

805-756-6402; ahewes@calpoly.edu

Cal Poly Student Receives Engineering Education Award

SAN LUIS OBISPO — Cal Poly materials engineering senior Matthew Vance received the Undergraduate Student Award from the Pacific Southwest section of the American Society of Engineering Education (ASEE) at its regional conference held April 24-26 in Long Beach, Calif.

The award was presented in recognition of Vance's significant achievements in research, team building and leadership, community service, and education-related activities.

"Matt genuinely enjoys learning for learning's sake," said Kathy Chen, chair of Cal Poly's Materials Engineering Department, in her nomination statement. "He also shares that enthusiasm generously — whether it's 'letting go' of being the team leader so that others can gain the experience or his active involvement in numerous tutoring, outreach and community service programs that promote science and engineering to young people."

Vance credits Cal Poly's educational philosophy and methods of teaching materials engineering for sparking his interest in the field of engineering education.

"The goal in engineering education isn't to teach everything there is to know," he said. "Engineering as a field is so complex that it can take years to grasp and decades to master. Finding ways to efficiently educate new engineers is paramount — as is inspiring them to teach themselves."

Vance's outreach efforts recently expanded into the area of interdisciplinary instruction.

As a participant in the Research Experience for Undergraduates program at Virginia Tech last summer, Vance was immersed in the research and practice of engineering at the college level.

"Working with an interdisciplinary team, I was tasked to develop a website — based on a real-life product development class at Virginia Tech — that examined how interdisciplinary teams can quickly gain trust in one another to produce the best products possible," said Vance.

Panelists at the event included Debra Larson, dean of Cal Poly's College of Engineering; and faculty members Jose Macedo, chair, industrial and manufacturing engineering; David Clague, biomedical engineering; Clint Staley, computer science; and Taufik, electrical engineering.

Related link:

View the website on teaching interdisciplinary design teams built by Vance and his team: <http://www.apps.enge.vt.edu/seec/jpd/>.

#



[CP Home](#) | [Directory](#) | [Campus Maps & Directions](#) | [Bookstore](#) | [Calendar](#) | [Employment](#) | [Campus Policies](#) | [Contact Us](#)

CAL POLY

[Get Adobe Reader](#) | [Microsoft Viewers](#)

© 2012 California Polytechnic State University | San Luis Obispo, California 93407
Phone: 805-756-1111