



News
University News & Information

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|------------------|-------------------|----------|------------------|-------------|-----------|-------|---|
| Admissions & Aid | Majors & Colleges | Research | Alumni Community | Campus Life | Athletics | About | > |
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Cal Poly Geotechnical Engineering Student Chapter Receives Rising Star Award

SAN LUIS OBISPO — Cal Poly's student chapter of the California Geotechnical Engineers Association (CalGeo) received the Rising Star Award at the group's annual conference, held May 1-3 in Newport Beach, Calif.

Founded in fall 2013, the Cal Poly CalGeo Club was recognized for its outstanding program of meetings, tours, community service and events.

Geotechnical engineering is a rapidly growing branch of civil engineering that applies the principles of soil and rock mechanics to structures on or in the ground, such as landfills, tunnels and foundations.

"A group of Cal Poly civil engineering majors founded the club to advance students' understanding of geotechnical engineering and help prepare them for careers in the profession," said Keegan Arnt, Cal Poly CalGeo president.

"The prestigious award recognizes our members' passion for this area of civil engineering and their dedication to the club. All of our members genuinely love geotechnical engineering — that's what motivated us to establish Cal Poly's first club devoted to the field," said Arnt. "It was a complete surprise and immense honor to have earned this distinction in our very first year."

The award also recognized Cal Poly CalGeo's fifth-place showing in the national GeoWall competition, held in February at the Geo-Congress in Atlanta. The event challenged students to build a scale-model, mechanically stabilized earth wall. For more information on the club and its activities, go to calpolycalgeo.com.

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