CAL POLY TO HELP BUILD ENVIRONMENT RESOURCE CENTER IN HAITI

CAL POLY’S COLLEGE of Architecture and Environmental Design will join several national organizations to help the State University of Haiti construct a new Haiti Built Environment Resource Center, to provide educational courses related to constructing safer buildings (particularly schools), and disaster resilient communities for Haitian officials and builders.

The US National Institute of Building Sciences (NIBS) will lead a team in charge of creating the center. NIBS and the Advanced Research Institute of Virginia Tech invited Cal Poly to join the group because of the university’s hands-on learning approach, as well as faculty expertise in seismic safety and planning for disaster-resilient communities.

William Siembieda, a professor in Cal Poly’s City and Regional Planning Department, will coordinate the college’s effort during the current academic year. Faculty member James Mwangi, a certified disaster safety worker, is also part of the team.

“Our students will get hands-on experience through coursework and field trips,” he said.

ART AND DESIGN STUDENTS PRODUCE NEW UNIVERSAL HEALTHCARE SYMBOLS

ART AND DESIGN STUDENTS, advised by assistant professor Kathryn McCormick, will have their work featured in various hospitals and health care facilities around the country. The Society for Environmental Graphic Design and Hablemos Juntos, an organization that develops solutions to language barriers in health care, recently unveiled new Universal Symbols in Health Care, many of which were designed by College of Liberal Arts’ Art and Design students.

KENNEDY WAS NAMED THE PRESIDENT OF CALIFORNIA STATE POLYTECHNIC COLLEGE IN 1967 AND RETIRED FEB. 1, 1979, AS PRESIDENT OF CALIFORNIA POLYTECHNIC STATE UNIVERSITY.

ROBERT E. KENNEDY, PRESIDENT EMERITUS

CAL POLY PRESIDENT EMERITUS Robert E. Kennedy, who led the university for more than 12 years and who remained engaged with Cal Poly for decades after his retirement, died Christmas Day 2010 at age 95.

Kennedy was named the president of California State Polytechnic College in 1967 and retired Feb. 1, 1979, as president of California Polytechnic State University. As the institution’s seventh president, he oversaw a period of significant, concentrated growth.

Kennedy led the campus through a key period of transformation, when it became a university and significantly expanded both its physical campus and its academic offerings.

Kennedy became head of Cal Poly’s Journalism Department in 1946. Three years later, he also took on the role of the school’s public relations director. He served as assistant to President Julian McPhee from 1950 to 1957, dean of the Arts and Sciences Division from 1957 to 1959, and vice president of Cal Poly from 1959 to 1967, before his 12-year tenure as the campus’s leader.

In recognition of his dedicated service to and profound influence on Cal Poly, the California State University trustees voted upon his retirement to name the campus’s then-new library building the Robert E. Kennedy Library.

THE WORD “MENTOR” MIGHT SUMMON THOUGHTS OF A LONG-TIME, TRUSTED CONFIDANT PROVIDING SAGE ADVICE AND MOTIVATION IN A RELATIONSHIP BUILT OVER THE YEARS.

While the Cal Poly Alumni Association’s Mustang Mentoring Day seeks to plant the seeds for such lasting connections, it also shows students and grads alike that meaningful mentoring can be accomplished in much smaller bites—sometimes as little as five minutes.

At the third Mustang Mentoring Day in February, nearly 200 Cal Poly students and alumni volunteers from the College of Engineering and the College of Architecture and Environmental Design participated in the day-long mentoring program, which included team building, speed mentoring sessions, and in-depth one-on-one sessions between students and mentors.

During the “speed mentoring” sessions—think “speed dating,” only aimed at finding connections through shared college or career interests—students gained confidence in presenting themselves professionally and met up to 10 potential mentors. After lunch, students were given more one-on-one time with alumni they connected with during the earlier session.

Throughout the day, mentors shared their professional and personal experiences with students. An engineering alumnus explained how “Cal Poly’s Learn by Doing approach is applied everyday to develop products in my field.” And an architect alumnus told students, “Cal Poly teaches you to think, and that has clearly stood out to me in working with colleagues from other universities.”

After the event, students were responsible for following up with alumni they connected with and identified as potential mentors. One student said he immediately began corresponding via e-mail with four alumni he met. And he realized that, regardless of whether the alumni are in my industry of interest, they are more than willing to share their Cal Poly network and community to help students succeed.”

THE NEXT GENERATION

STUDENTS AND ALUMNI CONVERGE FOR THE SPRING MUSTANG MENTORING DAY

GUIDING
BY CHRIS MCBRIDE