Closing Thoughts

With President Jeffrey D. Armstrong

When we invited new CSU Chancellor Timothy White to visit Cal Poly, we knew that the best people to tell him about Cal Poly and the power of Learn by Doing were our students.

During a packed two days in May, PolyReps from each of our six colleges led the chancellor on a tour across campus, exploring our vineyards, seeing our renowned CubeSat lab up close, and understanding how our Low Income Taxpayer Clinic serves the community. And those were just a few of many stops to hear about our Learn by Doing programs.

Our ASI leaders shared with the chancellor how Cal Poly is helping them prepare to be the community leaders of tomorrow. He heard the insights of students in our Multicultural Center. And at a special reception in Poly Canyon Village, the chancellor was able to mingle and meet with hundreds of student ambassadors and college committee members from around campus. There was even a late-night tour of the new ASI Rec Center.

I know that the chancellor heard our message loud and clear. At an open forum, Chancellor White told the audience of students, alumni, faculty and staff that one of Cal Poly’s “absolute distinct assets” is how effective Learn by Doing is and how well it is integrated throughout the curriculum.

The chancellor also acknowledged Cal Poly’s supporters, particularly those in the private sector who have done much to strengthen Learn by Doing over the years. Chancellor White told me that Cal Poly is fortunate to have as many relationships with industry as it does, adding that it “is vital to forge ever stronger public-private partnerships in order to preserve the public nature of Cal Poly. Strong public-private partnerships are essential for Cal Poly and the CSU to remain a vibrant public university.”

I’m grateful not only to our campus community, but also to the hundreds of Cal Poly advisory committee members, volunteers and donors who gathered for the chancellor’s visit and our first annual Evening of Green & Gold. It was, truly, thrilling to see the Cal Poly family come together and immerse the chancellor in all that is special about this great university.

Finally, I look forward to working with Chancellor White on what he so eloquently described as our sacred mission “to make sure that our students, when they leave us, are able to live and work and compete — and most importantly — to prosper in a global multicultural community.”