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**Cal Poly is Best in the West for the 17th Year in U.S. News Rankings**

SAN LUIS OBISPO - For the 17th year in a row, Cal Poly has been rated the best public-master's university in the West by U.S. News & World Report, in its 2010 America’s Best Colleges guidebook.

Cal Poly moved up four spots from 10th to 6th in the magazine's overall list of the West's best universities, including both public and private institutions, that provide "a full range of undergraduate and master's-level programs but few, if any, doctoral programs." U.S. News ranks colleges that grant doctoral degrees, such as those in the University of California system, in a separate category.

Cal Poly President Warren J. Baker observed, “This is a wonderful tribute to the quality of our faculty and students. This ranking should be reassuring to employers, who have already expressed to us a high regard for our graduates. Because of Cal Poly's renowned 'learn by doing' teaching methods, employers know that our graduates are ready to contribute on day one, and able to become top performers in California's workforce. Our core mission is to prepare well-rounded professionals for California industry, and it's great to be recognized for our efforts.”

Cal Poly’s College of Engineering program ranked third among public engineering programs, bested only by the U.S. Military and Naval Academies, for schools whose highest degree is a bachelor's or master's.

A number of College of Engineering programs ranked high in the Best Undergraduate Engineering Programs in their individual specialty categories. The university’s industrial and manufacturing, computer, electrical and mechanical engineering programs were each ranked as the top program at a public university in their respective specialty categories. Cal Poly’s civil and environmental engineering program was ranked the second best program at a public university.

The U.S. News rankings will be available at [www.usnews.com](http://www.usnews.com) on Aug. 20 and will be in the U.S. News & World Report magazine that goes on sale Monday, Aug. 24.