

# WELCOME TO CAL POLY

---

## A Message from President Armstrong

As the 21st Century unfolds, Cal Poly remains firmly committed to the values and traditions that have distinguished Cal Poly since it opened its doors more than a century ago. We seek to transform young adults into resourceful professionals and innovative leaders. At the core of our educational experience is our Learn by Doing philosophy, which provides students the opportunities to apply classroom learning theory to real-world problems. We strive to graduate whole-system thinkers who will be able to help solve the increasingly complex challenges that confront California and the global community.

**Undergraduate Emphasis:** As a predominantly undergraduate university, Cal Poly is known nationally for the quality of its baccalaureate degree programs in a variety of disciplines. We also offer outstanding master's degree programs.

**Residential Campus:** Cal Poly is a residential campus. Our students find that the campus environment affords them time, resources and settings in which to discover values and interests – whether in the classroom, academic-related clubs, residence halls, or other extracurricular activities.

**Polytechnic Mission:** From its inception, Cal Poly has given particular emphasis to instruction in polytechnic disciplines – science, technology, engineering, agriculture, and mathematics. At the same time, we recognize that liberal arts provide a critical and indispensable foundation for all academic disciplines. We are proud of the comprehensive education Cal Poly provides to its students, who graduate as professionals ready to be leaders in industry and society.

**Information Technology to Support Teaching and Learning:** Cal Poly has been, and continues to be, a leader in the use of information technology to enhance teaching and learning. Students and faculty have access to Internet resources, to course information, to library resources, and to advanced software tools 24 hours a day.

**Educational Philosophy:** Cal Poly is committed to excellence in teaching and learning. In all disciplines, we seek to provide a student-centered, learner-focused education, facilitated by a low student-teacher ratio in classes conducted primarily by full-time, regular faculty. The cornerstone of our educational philosophy is our commitment to Learn by Doing whereby classroom instruction is complemented by practical, hands-on learning in the laboratory, the studio, and the field.

**Diversity:** As a campus, we welcome and nurture a rich array of different perspectives, ideas and cultures. We encourage international and multi-cultural education in order to prepare students for successful participation and competition in a diverse world and a global workforce. We believe that diversity of our students, faculty, and staff enlivens and enriches Cal Poly's educational environment.

We believe these values and our core educational philosophy will sustain us far into the future. Of course, these values alone do not constitute our greatest strength. That strength rests in the quality of the students, faculty, staff, alumni, and friends who make up and who, indeed, are the University.

Jeffrey D. Armstrong  
President