Learn by Doing. It's more than our motto — it's the foundation of education in Cal Poly's College of Agriculture, Food and Environmental Sciences (CAFES). It is hands-on experience in real-production orchards, livestock yards, and food laboratories — facilities replicating the activity and environment that students will find when they join the workforce.

HISTORY OF THE LEARN BY DOING ENDOWMENT

In 2009, 11 innovative agriculture leaders who recognize the distinct advantage of a hands-on education came together to form the Learn by Doing Endowment to support the college’s renowned tradition of excellence. These generous philanthropists are committed to supporting the next generation of students and ensuring the future for Learn by Doing in CAFES. Each founding member donated $100,000 to create a fund of $1.1 million that is used to multiply the impact of their original gifts through matching endowments.
STUDENT BENEFITS

Every day in the College of Agriculture, Food and Environmental Sciences, students are inspired by what they experience in labs, enterprise classes, senior projects, special problems courses and more. Payouts from Learn by Doing Endowments are supporting:

- A new 14 musculo-skeletal specimen lab for anatomy and physiology in animal science courses
- New chocolate molds and immersion blenders for food science production labs
- Tank fermenters for use in wine and viticulture undergraduate research and senior projects
- Dissecting microscopes for the plant pathology lab and postharvest research lab in horticulture and crop science classes
- Hand-held measuring instruments, such as clinometers, compasses and diameter tapes used in all GIS (geographic information systems) courses taught at Cal Poly, the majority of which are led by natural resources management and environmental sciences faculty
- Scholarships for students to attend conferences and competitions, including the Agriculture Future of America’s Annual Leaders Conference

BE A PART OF LEARN BY DOING

With the available matching funds from the founding members, you can establish a $25,000 personal Learn by Doing Endowment for $12,500. Now you have the opportunity to pay it forward and honor yourself or a designee in perpetuity.

$12,500 + $12,500 = $25,000

your pledge paid over 1 to 5 years
endowment matching funds

CAFES graduates are ready to join the workforce because of the Learn by Doing education offered at Cal Poly. Hands-on learning comes at a cost that far exceeds state funding. Your support is critical to offering the best to our students.