President's Diversity Award Winners Announced

Four individuals, one student group and one campus organization were honored May 10 with President's Diversity Awards. The eighth annual ceremony celebrated members of the Cal Poly community who have exhibited a commitment to diversity. In addition, retiring College of Liberal Arts Dean Doug Epperson received the Legacy Award for his support of diversity-related initiatives in the college, including a diversity cluster-hire of faculty members, a new queer studies minor, and creation of the associate dean for diversity position, among other initiatives. "Learn by Doing is not complete without diversity and inclusion," President Armstrong said during the event. Jozi De Leon, vice president for diversity and inclusion and chief diversity officer, said she continues to be impressed by the diversity work happening on campus. Cal Poly is in the process of defining its future work, she added, to further embed diversity and inclusion throughout the university and create an environment where diversity is central to its identity. "We are committed to it as long as it takes," she said, "to make this place the most welcoming place — for students to feel that Cal Poly belongs to them, because it does." The Office of University Diversity and Inclusion received nearly 70 nominations for six awards. The categories and recipients are:

- Faculty: Oscar Navarro, faculty member in the School of Education.
- Staff: Jennifer Teramoto Pedrotti, associate dean for diversity and curriculum in the College of Liberal Arts.
- Student: Leilani Hemmings, ethnic studies student, president of Triota and member of the CLA Student Diversity Committee.
- Campus Organization: Cross Cultural Centers.
- Student Group: Black Student Union.
- Excellence in Inclusive Design: Catherine Trujillo, exhibits and campus arts curator for Kennedy Library.

Civil rights leader Dolores Huerta, who spoke on campus May 10, also gave the closing remarks at the Diversity Awards ceremony. "When we do not treat people as equals, we are denying their humanity," she said. "We have, all of us here, a call to action — none of us can take a backseat anymore. We have to end the bigotry. We not only want a welcoming campus but a welcoming community."

Informational Session on Retirement and Medicare To Be Held May 23

Human Resources has partnered with the Health Insurance Counseling and Advocacy Program (HICAP), a local nonprofit organization, to provide information on retirement and Medicare on Wednesday, May 23. Spouses and partners are also welcome to attend. The session will be held from noon to 1:30 p.m. in the Facilities Building (No. 70), Room 110. Space is limited; reserve a seat at https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e0b4eaba828a2fe3-hicap. Attendance is subject to supervisory approval and based on departmental operational needs.

'Teach On!' Series Continues; Next Event May 17

Due to the overwhelmingly positive response from the Winter Teach-In, the Office of University Diversity and Inclusion is hosting a "Teach On!" series for spring quarter. Faculty and staff are now presenting workshops on Thursdays through May 24 from 11 a.m. to noon in the Erhart Agriculture Building (No. 10), Room 220. The schedule is: May 17, "Myth vs. Fact About Undocumented Students," featuring Katherine Zevallos Pastor and Zulema Aleman; and May 24, "Wakanda Forever: Race, Gender and the Revolutionary Mind: An Analytical Discussion of Black Panther," featuring Blanca Martinez-Navarro, Blaze Campbell, Denise Isom, Jenell Navarro, Oscar Navarro and Steve Ross. All events are open to the campus community. For more information, contact diversity@calpoly.edu.
In Memoriam

This past weekend Cal Poly lost a beloved, longtime member of the community. Kim Shank died peacefully at her home after a battle with lung cancer. She had been on a leave of absence after receiving the diagnosis in January. A 33-year Cal Poly Corporation and University Store employee, Shank had developed an outstanding reputation as a buyer of collegiate apparel and had built friendships throughout the industry. During her career she helped the Cal Poly brand reach far and wide, with a unique ability to make choices for the store that appealed to every size and taste. She most recently served as the general merchandise manager for the University Store and Cal Poly Downtown. A friend to everyone who met her, Shank was known across campus and throughout the county as someone who was passionate about her family and friends. “Kim enjoyed so many things, whether it was traveling, riding her Harley with friends, or joining in on a celebration for someone else,” said Lorlie Leetham, associate vice president of commercial services and executive director of Cal Poly Corporation. “I think I speak for many of us here at Cal Poly when I say we are heartbroken, not only for our own loss, but for Kim and her husband, Terry, and all the things they had planned.”