Save the Date: Register for Facilities Management and Development Virtual Fall Summit 2020

Facilities Management and Development will host a series of virtual Zoom sessions this year in lieu of the annual Fall Summit and Open House. From Dec. 7-9, the campus community is invited to attend sessions on a variety of interesting and informative Facilities-related topics. This year’s session topics include sustainability, COVID-19 custodial support, campus planning, information security, service request processes and more. Visit the FMD Virtual Fall Summit webpage at https://afd.calpoly.edu/facilities/fall-summit to view the detailed session list and the session schedule and to register. Don’t miss this opportunity to connect with your colleagues in FMD and learn more about the range of services and support they provide. Questions? Contact the Facilities Management and Development Help Center at facilities-cbs@calpoly.edu or call ext. 6-5555.

Cal Poly Holiday Cheese Boxes Feature Student-Made Products

The Cal Poly Creamery has new award-winning cheeses and traditional favorites, available in a variety of gift box arrangements. The sale runs through Dec. 11, with shipping available throughout the U.S. and select dates available for pick-up at the Cal Poly Creamery. Gift boxes from the creamery are a safe and convenient way to share Mustang pride this holiday season. The creamery cares about our community and is giving back this holiday season. For every 100 gift boxes sold, a cheese box will be donated to the Cal Poly Food Pantry to support students impacted by food insecurity. A special cheese box is also available for purchase as a direct donation to students in need. Order your cheese selections in time for holiday delivery at https://calpolycreamery.com/.

Holiday Sales Offer Dazzling Array of Student-Made Products

While this year’s holiday shopping season may look different than any other, Cal Poly’s annual selection of student-made products continue to bring joy to customers looking to unwrap the Learn by Doing spirit. Students, faculty and staff have been working hard for months to prepare inventory, fill orders and host sales featuring artisan cheeses, meats, chocolates, poinsettias and wine. The experience of connecting with the community in such creative ways has been eye-opening for many students. “Every day we have customers thank us for going out and finding a way to still cater to our community during this challenging time,” said Tori Pedersen, an animal science student who co-manages the Cal Poly Meats weekly drive-thru sales. “Hearing how much our community appreciates and supports us makes it even more worth it.” Read the full article and find out how to purchase Cal Poly products at www.calpoly.edu/news.

Retirements

About a month into her Cal Poly tenure, Beth Gallagher was working late, as was often the case. On this particular night, a custodian dropped by and asked if she could share a concern. She proceeded to share her disappointment that due to cuts she would not be able to carry out her daily tasks to her high standards — she wouldn’t have the time to empty bins every night and ensure that the floor was cleaned to her liking. Gallagher remembers this moment as a gift. This show of dedication set the tone for her next 10 years on campus. Throughout her time as associate vice president, Human Resources, Gallagher has been fortunate to oversee a wide variety of functions in a department that touches everyone at the university. Gallagher is set to retire on Dec. 30. She will miss all the people that she has met and worked with, especially her team in HR, and is grateful for the opportunity to work at Cal Poly and be part of the CSU system. She truly believes that education changes lives and says it has been an extraordinary way to make a living.
Retirements

Melissa Bullaro transferred to Cal Poly in 1984 from the University of Nevada, Reno to study business marketing, and now, 36 years later, she’s ready for a new adventure. Bullaro will retire from her position as director of Risk Management and Administrative Services on Dec. 30. A self-proclaimed “Army Brat,” Bullaro was born in Texas, lived in Germany, did some growing up in Korea and generally spent much of her life experiencing new places. Yet, she has called San Luis Obispo home since ’84. Bullaro started her first full-time job at the Cal Poly Corporation after graduating with her bachelor’s degree. She spent 22 years with the corporation, taking advantage of the Educational Fee Reimbursement program to get her MBA before she moved over to stateside to head up Risk Management. During her time, she’s helped a lot of students with projects and met lots of great people throughout campus. Now, she’s ready to get back into photography, spend more time on her stand-up paddleboard, and do some racing with her Dragon Boat team, with whom she hopes to compete in New Zealand in 2022.

After 35 years as a network analyst and instructor in Industrial and Manufacturing Engineering, Nick Sweeney (Electrical Engineering; M.S., Engineering, ’91) will retire in December. Sweeney acted largely behind the scenes to trouble-shoot, research and innovate, keeping an extensive web of software and hardware configurations humming along successfully. He worked nights, mornings and weekends and is the reason many of us simply walked into our offices to find our computer systems unknowingly restored. Sweeney helped Industrial and Manufacturing Engineering (IME) develop outstanding computing labs and create excellent hands-on lab experiences in industrial automation. He was no small part of what helped IME grow to become a top department of its type in the nation. Sweeney waged battle and held dominion through untold technology changes, administrative reorganizations and even one or two personal conflicts. Yet he will be remembered at Cal Poly by a great many colleagues and friends who held his work in the highest regard.

On Dec. 30, Steve Polvi will retire from his role as manager of architectural trades in Facilities Operations. A Cal Poly alumnus, Polvi has led the union trade shops for the past six years, managing roughly 30 employees from the electrical, paint, carpenter and locksmith shops — a team that he describes as excellent. Prior to his return to campus, he spent 25 years in engineering and construction management, where he worked on projects both large and small, including six years managing the expansions of McCarran International Airport in Las Vegas and a plant on an island off the coast of Australia. Now he plans to project manage his own home improvements and spend more time traveling. He said he will miss the people he has worked with on campus. Polvi credits his early time at Cal Poly and his degree for much of what he has and has done in his life.

After working on campus for almost 32 years as an internal consultant for safety issues within Environmental Health and Safety, Tim Hastings will retire from the Cal Poly community. Before coming to Cal Poly, Hastings worked at El Camino College for 10 years as a physics lab technician. After joining the Cal Poly community, he handled a wide range of jobs. The variety was his favorite part of his job. Showing up to work unsure of what he would be tasked with for the day or where on campus he might go kept the job fresh and exciting. Some of the many programs that Hastings managed included respiratory protection, laser safety, asbestos and lead protection, control of hazardous energy and mold protection. Hastings will miss the people he worked with the most. Throughout his time spent at Cal Poly, Hastings thoroughly enjoyed interacting with coworkers and only has pleasant memories. In his retirement, he looks forward to spending time with his family, finalizing home projects that have been put on hold, and doing some long-awaited traveling after being cooped up for so long.

On Nov. 1, Leah Campbell Villa celebrated her 30th year as an employee in the CSU system. On Dec. 31 she will retire after 13 years at Cal Poly, most recently serving as a policy and risk analyst. In this position, she has coordinated campus responses to Public Records Act requests, updated the online Campus Administrative Policy (CAP) library, and served as a coordinator to the campuswide CAP Committee, among many other duties. Her time in the CSU system began in 1990 at Long Beach State, where she earned her master’s in public administration. In 1999 she headed to Camarillo to take a position as one of the “first 14” administrator-types to start up CSU Channel Islands, working closely with both Cal State University Northridge and the Chancellor’s Office. She was promoted to administrator II as manager of Purchasing, Budget and Support Services. In 2007 she was hired by Cal Poly as a buyer III. In her time on campus, she has met so many fantastic people, who she will miss. She said she’s had a varied and mostly fun career within the CSU, having never experienced the same day twice on three wonderful campuses.