Cal Poly Unveils Updated COVID-19 Dashboard
Cal Poly is now providing more information about the number of tests conducted on campus, the number of positive cases and the number of students in isolation or quarantine. View an updated dashboard at https://coronavirus.calpoly.edu/dashboard. The numbers on the dashboard reflect only testing done directly through Campus Health and Wellbeing, which provides COVID-19 testing only to currently enrolled students. Students can also get tested off campus. The university does not offer testing to employees. Employees who test positive for COVID-19 are reflected in countywide and community-specific statistics (for their community of residence), available at the San Luis Obispo County Public Health Department webpage: https://www.emergencyslo.org/en/covid19.aspx. Continue to visit https://coronavirus.calpoly.edu/ for current health information. Visit https://www.calpoly.edu/roadmap for continued fall quarter updates regarding campus operations and virtual resources.

Help Enforce COVID-19 Daily Screening Requirement for Students
The university is asking all faculty and staff for their help in enforcing the COVID-19 daily self-screening requirement for students. All students who wish to access campus for any reason are required to participate in this process. Students must successfully complete their screening by noon or before traveling to campus, whichever comes first in order to obtain a campus pass. Each pass will contain a unique QR code and date stamp, good for that day only. Ask students to show their pass before entering a campus facility such as a classroom, building or office. Any student found falsifying information may be subject to conduct sanctions. For more information on COVID-19 screening visit https://coronavirus.calpoly.edu/covid-19-self-screening.

Cal Poly Earns 28th Consecutive Best in the West Ranking from U.S. News
For the 28th straight year, Cal Poly has been named the best public, master’s-level university in the West by U.S. News & World Report’s annual America’s Best Colleges guidebook. The 2021 guide, released Sept. 14, provides data on more than 1,800 colleges and universities and rankings for more than 1,400 institutions. It lists Cal Poly in third overall in the West — up one from last year and an improvement of nine spots from 2019’s rankings. In addition, several College of Engineering programs were ranked as the best in the nation among public educational institutions, and Cal Poly was ranked as the top western school for veterans among public and private institutions that participate in federal initiatives helping veterans and active-duty service members pay for their degrees. The Western regional list includes public and private institutions in 15 states that provide “a full range of undergraduate and master’s-level programs but few doctoral programs.” (Universities that grant doctoral degrees, such as those in the University of California system, are listed in a separate category.) “For more than a generation, we have taken pride in being recognized as one of the best universities in the nation,” said President Armstrong. “Our goal is to produce the next generation of industry innovators and future leaders who, through Learn by Doing, graduate ready to contribute in their careers from Day One. These rankings also positively reflect on our talented and dedicated faculty and staff who devote themselves to helping students thrive and succeed in life.”

Drive-Thru Ice Cream Held Each Friday to Support Students
Cool off and support students at the Cal Poly Creamery. A drive-thru ice cream sale will be held each Friday from noon to 4 p.m. The cost is $6 per pint (cash, cards and checks are accepted) and the flavors are vanilla, chocolate chip, mint chip and mud pie. The creamery is located in the Dairy Science Complex off Mount Bishop Road (No. 18A).
Virtual Benefit Fair and Open Enrollment to be Held Sept. 21-Oct. 16
Chat with providers and the campus Human Resources Benefit Team during a virtual, live Benefit Resource Fair from 2-5 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 29. Register at http://csyou.calstate.edu/Employee-Resources/Benefits/open-enrollment/Pages/virtual-open-enrollment.aspx. Open Enrollment is Sept. 21-Oct. 16. This is employees' annual opportunity to review and update their current benefits for the upcoming year. Enroll, change or cancel CalPERS health, dental, vision, FlexCash, Dependent Care Reimbursement (DCRA), Health Care Reimbursement (HCRA) or voluntary benefits plans. The effective date for all changes made during the Open Enrollment period is Jan. 1, 2021. View the Benefits Open Enrollment webpage for 2021 rates, plan information and more.

A&F Takes Steps to Prepare Campus for Fall
An incredible amount of effort, time and planning has gone into ensuring a smoother transition to the new campus environment for students, faculty and staff. Since the campus went virtual in spring, Administration and Finance has purchased:
— More than 50,000 face coverings that will be given to all campus community members, including those that have already been distributed and others that will be made available as needed.
— Over 100 digital thermometers to be used for health screenings.
— 35,280 bottles of hand sanitizer.
— More than 800 Merv-13 filters, which are highly rated for filtering out high percentages of particles, including smaller particles.
A&F employees have also:
— Installed more than 4,000 signs and floor graphics in more than 50 buildings.
— Removed from service dozens of sinks, urinals and other fixtures in building restrooms to provide physical distancing and still maintain minimum-need requirements.
— Installed more than 250 plexiglass barriers.
— Reconfigured 140 classrooms and labs.
— Conducted more than 600 HVAC assessments in over 120 buildings and installed the Merv-13 air filters.
— Collaborated with the CSU to launch a COVID-19 Safety Awareness Online Course.
View a video of these efforts at https://vimeo.com/458255090.

New Virtual Book and Learning Circles for Fall
Employee and Organization Development has announced the fall 2020 Book and Learning Circles, which will all be held on Zoom.
— Book Circles involve reading a book over the course of three to five sessions and discussing in a group. The first book, "Whistling Vivaldi" by Claude M. Steele, paints a compelling picture of how simply being aware of negative stereotypes toward our social group diminishes our ability to perform. The second book is "Crucial Accountability: Tools for Resolving Violated Expectations, Broken Commitments, and Bad Behavior," by Kerry Patterson, Joseph Grenny, Ron McMillan and A. Switzler. Discover tools for improving relationships in the workplace and in life. The third book, "The Happiness Advantage: How a Positive Brain Fuels Success in Work and Life" by Shawn Achor, reveals how rewiring our brain for happiness helps us achieve more in our careers and relationships and as students, leaders and parents.
— Learning Circles involve watching a video or reading an article and participating in a discussion during a single session. The first learning circle is "Mindful Leadership," featuring talks from Janice Marurano, Mark Bertoli and Jessica Amos. The second learning circle is offered as a series of three sessions and provides an eye-opening discussion tool to help people examine their beliefs about race, privilege, policy and justice in "Race — The Power of an Illusion." In the third learning circle, "How Language Shapes the Way We Think," Lera Boroditsky shares examples of language and suggests that the various languages around the world shape the way we think. To register to attend, visit https://afd.calpoly.edu/learn-and-grow/connect/book-circles.