



CAL POLY

Office of the President

Solano Campus,

It's hard to believe that the end of the term — and commencement — are already upon us. This is always an exciting moment for a university: watching students and cadets who have studied, matured and grown over the past four years prepare to cross the commencement stage and step confidently into the world, ready for whatever lies ahead.

This year's celebration may also feel bittersweet as we prepare for the final commencement of Cal Maritime Academy before our academic integration with Cal Poly is complete.

In that spirit of reflection and pride, I am pleased to share that Capt. Kate McCue, BS '00 (Business Administration), will receive an Honorary Doctor of Science degree at this year's ceremony. This is the highest recognition conferred by the California State University system. Capt. McCue is a true pioneer in the maritime industry — the first American woman to captain a mega-cruise ship — and she continues to redefine leadership at sea while empowering women and underrepresented groups in STEM.

There is so much to be proud of — not only the accomplishments of the Class of 2026 but also the collective effort each of you has made to ensure the successful integration with Cal Poly and to prepare for another outstanding Summer Sea Term.

I am personally looking forward to the alignment of academic schedules as Cal Poly transitions to the semester system in the fall. This shift will

allow us to establish a more standardized rhythm across campuses and further strengthen our shared sense of community.

For those faculty and staff heading out aboard the Training Ship *Golden Bear*, thank you for your leadership and dedication to training our cadets and students. For those remaining on shore, I encourage you to use the summer months to pursue research or passion projects. During this time, we will also continue advancing our construction projects to enhance the campus for the community we serve.

I look forward to celebrating with you at this weekend's commencement ceremony.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey D. Armstrong
President

Commencement Activities

2026 Unity Reception ([Register](#))

Thursday, April 30, 2026 | 6-8 p.m., Compass

Dean's Reception

Friday, May 1, 2026 | 3:30 – 5 p.m., Mayo Hall Patio

Senior Awards

Friday, May 1, 2026 | 5:30 p.m., Mayo Hall Patio

Commissioning Ceremony

Saturday, May 2, 2026 | 9 a.m., Bodnar Field

Commencement Ceremony

Saturday, May 2, 2026 | 11 a.m., Bodnar Field

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