



CAL POLY

Office of the President

Faculty, Staff and Students,

What a year it has been!

As we wrap up our final quarter at Cal Poly, I encourage you to pause and reflect on all we accomplished together during the 2025–26 academic year. The Semester Conversion project immediately comes to mind, but the list of achievements is long. Here are just a few highlights:

We **celebrated 125 years** since our founding with events and activities that showcased our enduring ability to evolve, innovate and improve with each passing year.

We made significant strides in **integrating with Cal Poly Maritime Academy**, sharing ideas and resources across campuses as we continue learning and growing together as one team. As part of that effort, our Academic Senates and student government organizations unified. We proudly celebrated the final graduating class of Cal Maritime and advanced equity and inclusion through initiatives such as the Women in Maritime Conference and the conferral of an honorary degree upon Capt. Kate McCue (Business Administration '00).

Our **campus environment evolved and expanded** in remarkable ways. We reopened Kennedy Library following its major renovation; we broke ground on the Lynda and Stewart Resnick Student Success Center; and we made great strides on construction of new faculty and staff housing and the first of several new residence halls. We transformed Building 15 into the Mustang Commons, a new home for our cultural centers and other student support services. We expanded our Tech Park

and relocated our downtown bookstore to a more visible location in San Luis Obispo. And we continue work on a new pier at the Solano Campus in anticipation of the arrival of the Training Ship *Golden State* in 2027.

So far this academic year, our students documented **111,425 volunteer hours** through the Center for Service in Action, College Corps and Fraternity and Sorority Life on the San Luis Obispo campus and the Community Engaged Learning Center at Cal Poly Maritime Academy. These service hours provide a tangible economic benefit and direct support for community priorities including education, food security, climate service, and health and well-being.

We expanded access and opportunity for students by broadening our **Bachelor's Pathways Programs** with Cuesta College and Allan Hancock College.

We **embraced emerging technologies** and innovation across the university. We hosted both an AI Convening in the fall and an AI Symposium in the spring. We also purchased an NVIDIA-powered AI Factory, which is now up and running. Our students built our first solid-state laser and launched a CubeSat into space — just two examples among many extraordinary technology-driven projects.

Student-athletes achieved tremendous success, capturing 11 Big West championships and earning the Big West Commissioner's Cup. Our club sports teams had equally winning seasons! The Athletics program expanded to include NCAA teams in stunt and flag football, and we are on the cusp of opening the new John Madden Football Center.

Our **national reputation continues to rise**, with recognition from *Forbes*, *U.S. News & World Report* and *Money* magazine. Our Rose Parade float earned the prestigious Sweepstakes Trophy, while students and faculty across our campuses received top honors in numerous fields, including Emmy Awards and Fulbright Fellowships.

We watched with awe as **Victor Glover** (Engineering '99) and his crewmates circled the moon and safely returned to Earth, and we eagerly

anticipate welcoming him back to his alma mater.

And, of course, **we had fun together**. Morning on the Green was a tremendous success, and the sold-out Poly Royal Rodeo brought excitement and energy to our campus community.

The accomplishments of this year are truly extraordinary. I could not be prouder of this university and of the faculty, staff and students who make Cal Poly such a special place.

Thank you for all you have contributed to our success. To our colleagues aboard *Golden Bear*, I wish you fair winds and following seas. To our San Luis Obispo campus, I wish you a wonderful final few days of the quarter and all the best for a restful and rewarding summer.

See you in August!

Jeffrey D. Armstrong
President

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