



CAL POLY

Office of the President

Cal Poly faculty, staff and students,

Cal Poly has entered the implementation phase of year-round opportunities, with a planned rollout beginning in academic year 2028-29 (summer 2029). Teams across the university are making substantial progress on the academic, operational and student support work required for a successful launch, and I am grateful for your dedication and partnership.

While we have moved to a new phase of the project, your input continues to be critical in shaping decisions and determining how year-round opportunities will be implemented.

Our vision for a year-round Cal Poly experience remains focused on three goals:

- Serve more students
- Create more choices
- Fortify our future

A critical step in this effort is establishing a new academic calendar. After reviewing multiple options, a faculty working group recommended a symmetrical 14+1 calendar featuring three equal terms, each with 14 weeks of instruction and one week of final exams. The recommendation was based on CSU policy, Title 5, Maritime Sea Term and financial aid requirements. The proposal will proceed through the shared governance process before adoption.

I believe it is the best option to:

- Comply with stringent educational and accreditation requirements
- Provide equitable access to financial aid regardless of which term a student is enrolled
- Support the needs of our Coast Guard licensure program
- Avoid the type of short summer we just experienced
- Ensure the best environment for teaching and learning

Some have asked why we are pursuing year-round opportunities now. Higher education is evolving rapidly, and Cal Poly is no stranger to evolving alongside the needs of the students, communities and industries we serve. This work will align how we operate with how students learn, work and engage today and into the future.

While challenges remain, our research has not identified any barriers that cannot be addressed through thoughtful planning, collaboration and appropriate investment in people and resources.

Growth through year-round opportunities will provide resources to support priorities we all value: small class sizes, Learn by Doing experiences, student financial aid, modern facilities, and competitive faculty and staff compensation.

The entire campus community continues to play an essential role in shaping key decisions. We will move forward at a pace that reflects our readiness and commitment to quality, and we encourage the continued sharing of ideas and feedback.

Thank you for your engagement and support.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey D. Armstrong
President