



CAL POLY

Office of the President

To the Cal Poly Community,

This weekend, we celebrate Founder's Day and 125 years of Learn by Doing. From the vision of local citizens to the advocacy of a respected journalist and the support of the state's governor, Cal Poly was built on a shared belief that education strengthens communities and improves lives. That spirit of purpose has guided us ever since.

Over the decades, generations of Mustangs have helped shape the Cal Poly we know today — establishing our six colleges, building vibrant campuses, and excelling in the classroom, laboratories, at sea and in athletics. More than 230,000 alumni have passed through our doors and now lead across industries — in the arts, business, journalism, agriculture, science, athletics and more.

As we take this opportunity to look back on our accomplishments over the last 125 years, we also look forward to the exciting next chapter in Cal Poly's future. We are undergoing significant and meaningful transformation that will allow us to make foundational investments in the future of our students, faculty and staff.

The integration of the Cal Poly Maritime Academy, transitioning to a semester calendar, and expanding year-round operations all reflect a collective commitment to a stronger and more accessible and responsive university. Thank you for the energy, talent and care you bring to our shared mission.

Celebrating 125 Years: Join us for this week's celebrations.

[Founders Day](#)

Celebrations for alumni and supporters across the country, including gatherings in San Luis Obispo and the Bay Area.

[Cal Poly Partners Celebrates 85 Years](#)

Wednesday, March 4, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. along Mustang Way.

Outreach tables, giveaways, prizes and more.

ASI Spirit Day

Thursday, March 5, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at UU Plaza.

Food, games, booths and music.

More to Celebrate

I also want to acknowledge two other important milestones this week. March 8 marks **International Women's Day**, now in its 115th year of honoring women's achievements and influence. Women have long played a vital role at Cal Poly. Our founding charter called for educating "young people of both sexes," and in 1924 Margaret Chase served as interim president, signaling early support for women in leadership. That progress was interrupted in 1929, when legislation barred women from enrolling at Cal Poly. They returned in 1956, gradually increasing from roughly one quarter of enrollment in the early years to nearly 40% by the 1980s and more than 50% today — a reflection of a campus that continues to grow more inclusive and representative.

This week also includes **Employee Appreciation Day**. I extend sincere thanks to all our faculty and staff. Some of you are Cal Poly graduates who chose to build your careers here; others have joined us from across the country and around the world. I am committed to continuing to shape an institution worthy of your talents — one that supports your growth, learning and well-being, as well as that of your families.

As always, thank you for choosing Cal Poly. Here's to our first 125 years — and to building an even brighter future together.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey D. Armstrong

President



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