Cal Poly Employees Eligible for the COVID-19 Vaccine in SLO County
All current employees, including student employees, who want to be vaccinated are eligible for COVID-19 vaccines in San Luis Obispo County. The county’s eligibility also includes a list of specific employment sectors, residents who are 50 and older, and residents with specific medical conditions or disabilities. Those eligible can look for first-dose appointments at several local pharmacies or through San Luis Obispo County’s Vaccine Appointment Registry for appointments at one of three local vaccine clinics. Employees can sign up for the county’s registry at https://www.recoverslc.org/en/vaccine-registration.aspx or by calling the County Phone Assistance Center at 805-543-2444 or 805-781-4280 (seven days a week, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.). University employees who live outside the county are still eligible for a vaccine at a county site based on their employment at Cal Poly. Be prepared to show proof of employment at your appointment through a photo ID with a recent paystub, a PolyCard that establishes your role on campus, or a Cal Poly ID badge specific to your job. If possible, fill out, print and bring the medical screening form to your appointment to help quicken the process. Review the frequently asked questions on Cal Poly’s vaccine page at https://coronavirus.calpoly.edu/covid-19-vaccine to help prepare for your appointment, and plan to get your second dose of the vaccine wherever you get your first dose. Employees are highly encouraged to receive the vaccine when eligible but are not currently required to be vaccinated. Learn more about the vaccines and the vaccination process on county public health’s website at https://www.recoverslc.org/en/vaccine-faqs.aspx.

Inside Cal Poly’s New Saliva-Based COVID Testing Program
Cal Poly’s COVID-19 testing capacity got a major upgrade earlier this month as the university transitioned from an outside vendor to a new, faculty-developed saliva-based surveillance test and on-campus laboratory — enabling faster processing and providing a valuable Learn by Doing experience in the process. As a saliva-based test rather than a nasal swab, the testing experience is more comfortable and reduces the time individuals are on-site getting tested. More importantly, the new test significantly increases the volume of samples that can be processed and reduces wait times for results to under 24 hours, allowing university health staff to more effectively catch infections before they spread. It’s also an invaluable factor in the university’s goal to achieve biweekly testing for more than 4,000 students and eventually more, as campus protocols evolve with the pandemic. “At full scale, we will be processing at minimum 4,000 individual samples in roughly eight hours,” said Nathaniel Martinez, a biology professor and the lead researcher on the team that developed the new protocols. All students who are required to test have been transitioned to the new saliva method. Check https://coronavirus.calpoly.edu/employee-testing for updates on testing availability for employees.
COVID-19 Vaccine Fact Check: Should I Get the Vaccine If I've Recovered from COVID-19?
This week’s fact check addresses whether people who have recovered from COVID-19 should consider getting the vaccine. The CDC says this: You should be vaccinated regardless of whether you already had COVID-19. That's because experts do not yet know how long you are protected from getting sick again after recovering from COVID-19. Even if you have already recovered from COVID-19, it is possible — although rare — that you could be infected with the virus again. Learn more about why getting vaccinated is a safer way to build protection than getting infected at https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/vaccine-benefits.html. If you were treated for COVID-19 with monoclonal antibodies or convalescent plasma, you should wait 90 days before getting a COVID-19 vaccine. Talk to your doctor if you are unsure what treatments you received or if you have more questions.

Associate Vice President for Facilities Management and Development Announced
Following a nationwide search, Michael (Mike) McCormick has been named associate vice president for Facilities Management and Development. McCormick comes to Cal Poly with 35 years of experience, the last three serving as the associate vice president of Asset Management and University Architect for the University of Washington. In that role, he developed and implemented strategy planning for a facilities team of 1,000 employees who oversaw three campuses comprising 27 million square feet and directly supervised professionals in sustainability, real estate, capital planning and delivery, campus planning, portfolio management, space management, engineering, energy conservation, preventive maintenance, and customer care. During his time in Washington, he directed the creation of green building standards, a green revolving fund, and a universitywide Sustainability Action Plan. He created a facilities department that leveraged funding and data to more effectively use resources and create better outcomes for customers. He also developed a long-term capital plan that aligned needs with resources and helped to reduce deferred maintenance, decrease carbon footprint, and change the overall approach to funding and operational growth. McCormick will begin his new role on June 1.

Michelle Crawford Named Interim ASI Executive Director
The ASI board of directors recently approved Michelle Crawford to serve as interim ASI executive director. Crawford succeeds Marcy Maloney, who retired earlier this month. In her role, Crawford is accountable for the financial, legal and administrative management of ASI; the general management of all ASI resources, programs and managed facilities; and ensuring that ASI effectively supports and complements Cal Poly’s educational mission. Crawford began her career with ASI as a student in 2002 and has held numerous positions, including student manager, temporary assistant coordinator, coordinator, assistant director, associate director, and most recently University Union director. She received the ASI Outstanding Service Award in 2009 and the Student Affairs Chandler Award in 2014. Throughout her career, she has combined her passion for student development and strong stewardship of student fees with providing outstanding programs and services to students. Crawford has bachelor’s and master’s degrees in recreation, parks and tourism administration from Cal Poly.

Help A&F ‘Focus Forward’ and Win Prizes
After a challenging year, it's time to “Focus Forward.” On Wednesday, April 7, Administration and Finance will launch the next iteration of its annual customer satisfaction survey. Renamed Focus Forward, the survey will reach out to A&F constituents for feedback on the division’s services over the past year. Responses will provide the division with valuable feedback needed for continuous improvement. Open to all faculty, staff and students, Focus Forward will remain open through April 30. While the survey covers every unit and department within A&F, campus community members are being asked to complete the sections relevant to them. For every section that participants complete, they will be entered into a drawing for an IPad Mini and more than 60 other prizes. More information on the survey, prizes and a link to participate are available at afd.calpoly.edu/survey.

Cal Poly Recreation Center Indoor Reopening
The Cal Poly Recreation Center will open indoors at partial capacity on Monday, March 29. Recently, San Luis Obispo County moved into the red tier of the Blueprint for a Safer Economy, which allows gyms and fitness centers to open indoors with modifications at maximum 10% capacity. The opening includes access to the upper exercise area, an additional exercise space in the South Gym, and the restart of group fitness classes, which will be held in the North Gym at a maximum of 10-person capacity to maintain physical distancing. The Recreation Center will continue to provide outdoor recreation spaces in addition to virtual programming. For information and class reservations, visit asi.calpoly.edu. For updated guidelines, visit https://www.asi.calpoly.edu/asi-covid-19-updates/.