Cal Poly and Its Students Infuse $1 Billion into Central Coast

Cal Poly’s economic contributions ripple throughout the county, region and state, supporting thousands of jobs and generating more than $1.6 billion in industry activity and over $105 million of state and local tax revenue, according to an economic impact study commissioned by the CSU. During 2018-19, the campus spent more than $1 billion, including up of $535.1 million in operational expenditures, $132.5 million in auxiliary costs and $70.1 million on construction projects. In addition, Cal Poly’s more than 20,000 students spent nearly $280 million. Researchers from ICF International Inc., a global advisory and digital services provider, utilized data from the 2018-19 academic year. Additionally, Cal Poly alumni who live on the Central Coast — a region of five counties that include Ventura, Santa Barbara, San Luis Obispo, Monterey and San Benito — earned an additional $996.4 million, thanks to their degrees, and alumni who remained in the Golden State earned an additional $3.8 billion in 2019.

A&F Focus Forward is Live; Give Feedback, Win Prizes

The new Administration and Finance survey, Focus Forward, is now live. With this reimagined survey, A&F leadership is reaching out to its constituents across campus for feedback on the division’s response to the pandemic over the past year. This information will help leadership learn from customers’ experiences with each department in a way that shares their knowledge and values. Open to all faculty, staff and students, Focus Forward will be available until April 30. The survey covers every unit and department within A&F; however, campus community members are only 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 or more than 60 other prizes. The information gathered from the survey will be used to reassess A&F unit offerings and deliverables. More information on the survey, prizes and a link to participate are available at afd.calpoly.edu/survey.

CAFES Seeks Input on Future of Swanton Pacific Ranch

The College of Agriculture, Food and Environmental Sciences is in the process of re-envisioning the purpose of Swanton Pacific Ranch after much of it was destroyed by the CZU Lightning Complex Fires in August 2020. The college is seeking input on what the future of Swanton Pacific Ranch should look like. The campus community can participate in this process by taking the survey at https://calpolycafes.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_cRVEiRpcT43i3FI. The survey is short and should only take about 10 minutes. The college’s guiding principle for this process is honoring Al Smith’s vision of Swanton Pacific Ranch as a unique Learn by Doing living and learning laboratory for Cal Poly students, dedicated to providing students, faculty, staff and the community with unparalleled learning and research opportunities for understanding sustainable land management practices. Campus responses will help inform the development of the strategic intent — the college’s roadmap — for Swanton Pacific Ranch.

How Cal Poly's Jazz Ensembles Kept Making Music in a Pandemic

In February 2020, music Professor Arthur White and the students in Cal Poly’s Jazz Ensemble and Vocal Jazz Ensemble were planning to record a CD when the coronavirus pandemic changed their plans. More than 365 days and one pandemic later, that CD, titled “another time, another place,” is out and available on streaming services — a testament to their grit and determination to put music out into the world in a time when playing music in a physical group is nearly impossible. “Normally we’re all out performing and playing gigs and interacting with people,” White said. “We didn’t have that option this year, so we’ve done what we can. This was a way to commit to creating music in this environment.” The process of making the CD taught second-year music major and Vocal Jazz Ensemble member Danna Dumandan about her own ability to persevere as a musician in a difficult time. “The fact that I got it done and just didn’t put it down and quit, I’m proud of myself for that and I’m glad I kept going,” she said. Read more: https://www.calpoly.edu/news/dont-stop-music-how-jazz-ensembles-kept-groove-going-pandemic.
COVID-19 Vaccine Eligibility Continues to Expand in SLO County
San Luis Obispo County Public Health Department announced that SLO County community members ages 30 and older are eligible for a COVID-19 vaccine locally. This includes Cal Poly students in this age group. The county’s eligibility also includes a list of specific employment sectors, including all Cal Poly employees, and residents with specific medical conditions or disabilities. Those eligible can look for first-dose appointments at several local pharmacies or at one of three SLO County mass vaccination sites. Employees can sign up for the county’s vaccine registry at https://www.recoverslolo.org/en/vaccine-registration.aspx or through 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. 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. SLO County Public Health advises everyone to plan to receive their second dose, if necessary, wherever they received their first dose. Second-dose appointments through a county-run vaccine clinic can be scheduled on the recoverslolo.org website at https://www.recoverslolo.org/en/vaccine-registration.aspx and should follow the timeline given to you at your first-dose appointment. Employees are highly encouraged to receive the vaccine when eligible but are not currently required to be vaccinated.

COVID-19 Vaccine Fact Check: Why Should Young People Consider Getting Vaccinated?
Welcome to the COVID-19 Vaccine Fact Check, weekly insights on the COVID-19 vaccines presented by Campus Health and Wellbeing. This week’s fact check addresses why young people should consider the COVID-19 vaccine. Here’s what our campus experts say: Vaccines can protect the health of young people by reducing the risk of contracting or spreading COVID-19. Though young people tend to exhibit less severe symptoms of COVID-19, they can still become severely ill, have lingering health effects from the virus, and transmit the virus to others — especially those who may be more vulnerable — whether they’re symptomatic or not. Also, young people don’t always know if they have an underlying health condition that might make them more vulnerable to serious disease. Young people, specifically students, make up a significant portion of our local community. A strong vaccination rate among them will help campus and the Central Coast reach a degree of community protection — or herd immunity — that will make in-person activities possible and will help our economy reopen safely. To learn more about vaccines available in SLO County, visit https://www.recoverslolo.org/en/vaccine-faqs.aspx.

'Disability Tapas' Presentations to be Held on Thursdays Through Spring Quarter
Disabilities come in many different forms and can vary greatly. Join the Disability Resource Center (DRC) for some snack-size information and interactive discussions on a variety of disability-related topics. Presentations are geared toward faculty and staff (students are welcome), and offered every Thursday from 11:10 a.m. to noon via Zoom. For more information and to view past presentations, visit the DRC Disability Tapas webpage at https://drc.calpoly.edu/disability-tapas. The presentations include:
- April 8: Introduction to Disability Resource Center (DRC) Services.
- April 15: Supporting Students with Traumatic Brain Injury and Post-Concussive Symptoms.
- April 29: Introduction to Disability Allyship.
- May 6: Understanding Chronic Invisible Illness.
- May 13: Supporting Students with ADHD (attention deficit hyperactivity disorder).
- May 20: The Why and DIY of Video Captioning (1.5 hours).
- May 27: Supporting Students with Learning Disabilities.
- June 3: Supporting Students with Autism.

Free AWS Cloud Training Available April 14 and 21
Cal Poly Extended Education is offering two opportunities for campus community members to receive free cloud training through Amazon Web Services (AWS) Discovery Day events. On April 14 from noon-3 p.m., Cal Poly will offer a Discovery Day session at the virtual UC Cyber Security Summit. On April 21 from 1-4 p.m., another Discovery Day session will be hosted on Zoom. These events are free and an opportunity for those who are interested to learn more about AWS fundamental cloud concepts and services. The university joined the AWS Partner Network (APN) Training Partner Program in October, which enables authorized instructors at Cal Poly to deliver training developed by AWS. To learn more and to register for the Discovery Day events, visit https://cloud.calpoly.edu/discovery-days?utm_source=cp_report_040621&utm_medium=link&utm_campaign=uc_summit&utm_content=april_14.