

CEA Awards \$200,000 in Grants to Seven University Construction Management Programs

For more than 20 years, the Construction Employers' Association's (CEA) Construction Management University Grant Program has awarded grant funding to seven top university programs. Awards for the 2019 program year totaled \$200,000, bringing the total amount contributed to \$3 million since the program began in 1998.

In an effort to support and promote quality construction management education, CEA funds innovative programs that directly benefit students.

CEA's grant committee consists of eight executives from prominent Northern California building construction firms, with seven firms in business for 100 years or more. Using that expertise, the committee evaluates applications with a special focus on building better future construction managers through hands-on education and as much field experience as possible. The committee also looks for programs that promote Construction Management as a career path and create opportunities for the universities to partner with CEA member firms.

"This program, now in its 22nd year, is one of the most important ventures the Construction Employers' Association has undertaken. As the construction industry continues to expand, so does the need for qualified construction-oriented managers," says Committee Chairman Jerry Overaa, Chief Executive Officer of C. Overaa & Company, Richmond.

"Through these annual grants to the seven Northern California programs, CEA has built strong partnerships with academic institutions as well as help prepare stu-



dents for dynamic careers and leadership in the industry."

California State University, Fresno's Construction Management Program earned the 2019 Donald L. Warmby Leadership Award for the best overall proposal. CEA says this grant will help create an enhanced Virtual

Field Trip (VFT) that allows both instructors and students to access desired construction field trip experiences anywhere they have access to the internet. This VFT, eTour, provides an environment with 3D models, 360 degree images and video/audio recordings to promote a multimodal learning

experience.

University of California, Berkeley; California State University, Fresno; California State University, Sacramento; California State University, Chico;

California State University, East Bay; and Stanford University also participated in the program and were awarded funds to benefit their students.

CEA Grant Mission

The mission of the CEA Construction Management University Program is to award grants to universities that educate students pursuing degrees leading to a career in the construction industry and to develop a network with these universities. This program will demonstrate CEA's commitment to support and promote education within the building construction industry. In addition, the program will enhance CEA and its members' relationships with prominent university construction management programs and their graduates.

About CEA

CEA is comprised of over 100 mid-to large-sized unionized commercial building contractors performing work in Northern California. Its members collectively perform over \$15 billion in public and private building construction volume annually and employ over 15,000 employees in the State of California.