

## CEA Awards \$225,000 in Grant Funding to Seven Leading University Construction Management Programs

For over 25 years, the Construction Employers' Association's (CEA) Construction Management University Grant Program has awarded grant funding to seven top university programs. In an effort to support and promote quality construction management education, CEA funds innovative programs that directly benefit students. Awards for the 2023 program year totaled \$225,000, bringing the cumulative amount granted to over \$3.8 million since the program began in 1998.

CEA's grant committee consists of ten executives from prominent Northern California building construction firms, with five 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 is one of the most important ventures the Construction Employers' Association has undertaken. These grants help to ensure that annually approximately 2,500 students in these seven programs have access to state-of-the-art construction management tools and knowledge," stated Committee Chairman Jerry Overaa, Chairman of the Board of C. Overaa & Company, Richmond

California State University, Fresno's Construction Management Program earned the *2023 Donald L. Warmby Leadership Award* for the best overall grant proposal. The grant will help Fresno State create an "Artificial Intelligence (AI) Applications in the Architecture, Engineering and Construction (AEC) Industry" course for Construction Management students. This course will improve students' understanding related to AI implementation, advantages and challenges with implementation of AI and the associated ethical considerations.

California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo, University of California, Berkeley, 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 is comprised of over 100 mid- to large-sized unionized commercial building contractors performing work in Northern California. Its members collectively perform over \$30 billion in public and private building construction volume annually and employ over 15,000 employees in the State of California.



(L-R) Jerry Overaa, Molly Smith, Lloyd Crask and Michael Walton.