

# Daily Pacific Builder®

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## News Briefs

### CEA Recognized for 15 years and \$1.77 Million in Grant Awards

Last month the Construction Employers' Association (CEA) received a Certificate of Recognition from Senator William Monning commending its generous support over the past 15 years to higher education through its University Construction Management Grant Program. Since the program's inception, CEA has donated \$1.77 million in total grant funding.



CEA recently awarded \$150,000 to the six participating university programs: California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo; University of California, Berkeley; California State University, Chico; California State University, Fresno; California State University, Sacramento; and Stanford University.

In an effort to support and promote quality construction management education, CEA funds innovative programs that directly benefit students. Grant applications were reviewed by a CEA committee of executives from nine prominent Northern California building construction firms. In the evaluation of applications, there is a strong focus on programs that promote hands-on, practical learning and actual field experience in order to train the future leaders of the industry.

"Now more than ever, it is important to support the education of the next generation of construction managers," says Committee Chairman Jerry Overaa, CEO of C. Overaa & Company, Richmond. "With this program, we hope to inspire students while providing them with the education and experience necessary to become industry leaders."

CEA presented its top award, the 2012 Donald L. Warmby Leadership Award, to the California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo Construction Management Program at the CEA Annual General Membership Dinner Meeting on January 22, 2013. Cal Poly received support for their CEA

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Student University Resource Fund. This fund is overseen by students and allocates resources to promote professional growth and real world learning opportunities, including field trips to jobsites and student participation in construction competitions and professional conferences. CEA's grant will also support recruitment of students to the department, in light of growing future personnel needs in the construction industry.

Allan J. Hauck, Department Head and Professor in the Construction Management Department at Cal Poly says, "For 15 years now, CEA has provided one of the most impactful grant programs directly affecting the education of Construction Management students in California. This annual grant allows Cal Poly students to participate in regional and national project management competitions, expand their professional development by attending national conferences with practitioners from all sectors of our industry, and to attend field trips to active Northern California jobsites. In today's environment of decreased state funding, this private support is essential to meeting the educational objectives of our department."

CEA is comprised of over 100 mid- to large-sized unionized commercial building contractors performing work in Northern California. Its members collectively perform over \$10 billion in public and private building construction volume annually and employ over 15,000 employees in the State of California.