

UNIONS UPDATE



CEA Construction Management University Grant Program Awards \$150,000 to Six Leading Universities

For its 12th consecutive year, the Construction Employers' Association has awarded grants to deserving universities as part of its 2009 Construction Management University Grant Program. This year, CEA has granted \$150,000 divided among six leading California universities offering programs in the field of Construction Management, bringing the overall total granted by CEA to more than \$1.32 million.

CEA is comprised of over 100 mid- to large-sized unionized commercial building contractors performing work in Northern California. Its membership base performs over \$10 billion in public and private construction volume annually.

Executives from nine leading Northern California construction firms, who serve on the CEA Construction Management University Grant Program Committee, evaluated grant applications from the six participating universities. The objective of the CEA grant program is to support and promote quality construction management education with the hope of developing long-term relationships with the participating universities.

"We hope to inspire a greater number and superior quality of future construction managers by supporting programs that encourage real world experience in the building construction industry," states Committee Chairman Jerry Overaa, CEO of C. Overaa & Co. "Supporting Construction Management education at the university level is crucial to the future of our industry, especially during such challenging economic times."

CEA recognized the **California Polytechnic State University**, San Luis Obispo Construction Management Program with the 2009 Donald L. Warmby Leadership Award. Cal Poly received support for the CEA Student University Resource Fund. This fund, which is overseen by students, allocates funds to support professional growth and real world learning opportunities including field trips to jobsites and student participation in construction competitions and professional conferences.

Allan J. Hauck, Professor and Department Head of the Construction Management Department at Cal Poly, says, "The contributions of the CEA through their University Grant Program has an immediate and positive impact directly on the students at Cal Poly."

Other grant awards for 2009 included funding for the following programs: **University of California, Berkeley** received support for student case studies of construction management issues and a course taught by an industry professional; **California State University, Chico** received support for the CEA Student Activity Funds and Experience, which funds student participation in field trips and professional conferences, and the development of a Construction Management math program; **California State University, Fresno** received support for continuing development of a construction management competition for first and second year students, a high school recruiting program and equipment for hands on service learning projects connected to the Lowell Neighborhood revitalization; **California State University, Sacramento** received funding for creation of instructional DVD's for classroom use; and **Stanford University** received support for consulting instructors from the industry to teach courses and to help support field trips to active jobsites.