Spotlight on Sustainability!

“As a polytechnic university, it is at the core of our mission to examine the ways in which knowledge may be applied to improve society, manage scarce resources and protect and preserve our environment. Sustainability is a high priority for the university and a key issue that should cut across all we do, including teaching, research and the practices we engage in on the campus.”
—President Warren Baker

From the Desk of Larry Kelley

“Focus In A Time Of Change”

A number of years ago, I attended a presentation by Edwards Deming, the quality management pioneer who worked so effectively in the 1950’s to rebuild Japan’s economy. Deming was 92 years old when I saw him and was particularly troubled by a question from a university president who asked how to implement a program on quality. Deming responded that one does not implement quality, one simply does it. I agree with his position and have thought that if we all understand and demonstrate a common set of principles we can provide quality.

I think that concept applies more broadly to issues we currently are facing. For the first time in 30 years we will be getting a new president. For the fifth time in the last eight years we are facing budget cuts. We have faced – and are beginning to see recovery from – the deepest economic recession in decades. We have been told to reduce the number of students we can serve. In short, we are in the midst of considerable change.

How do we survive all these changes? I suggest we focus in this time of change. We can focus on who we are and what we are to do in support and service to Cal Poly. We can focus on providing the level of service we would expect if we were the ones being served. We can focus on helping students, faculty, staff, and guests enjoy their experiences on our campus. We can focus on living the principles that define who we are.

Henry Ford is quoted as saying, “Whether you believe you can do a thing or not, you are right.” Thank you in joining me in believing we can make a positive difference to Cal Poly in this time of change – and in doing it.
SUSTAINABILITY is the intelligent use of our resources—natural and technological—to meet our communities' needs both today and in the future. People worldwide are beginning to recognize that a healthy, functioning community relies on a healthy environment.

Pollution and overuse of resources can affect everything from the health of children to the availability of raw materials. Increasingly, we are realizing the importance of not only meeting environmental regulations but also taking extra steps to reduce waste, prevent pollution, and conserve resources. As more communities choose to pursue sustainability, successful environmental programs will continue to emerge. These programs will become models on which to base global efforts to protect and restore the environment.

Each individual has a role in building a sustainable future. At home, school, and work, we can make changes that will help preserve our resources for future generations. Many individuals and communities have already begun—find out how you can do your part.

REDUCE    REUSE    RECYCLE

Cal Poly: Green Campus

Our nation’s institutions of higher education spend a significant portion of their annual operating budgets on utility services, diverting funds from valuable programmatic and community-building activities. The Alliance to Save Energy’s Green Campus Program is leading the way towards campus sustainability by bridging the divide between students and institutional energy costs. Through Green Campus, students are working to save energy on campuses by building general campus awareness, incorporating energy conservation and efficiency into course curricula, and implementing projects targeting energy use, student purchasing decisions, and operational changes.

When asked which of the program’s many projects was the most successful, Green Campus Project Manager Renee Lafrenz identified Cal Poly as a stand out.

Interns from Cal Poly San Luis Obispo – winners of the Best Practices in Student Energy Efficiency Award at the recent UC/CSU/CCC Sustainability Conference in California – have done a fantastic job encouraging students in nine residence halls to save a whopping 176,355 kWh ($20,638) between October 11 – November 20, 2009.

Green Campus provided residents with “Green Tips” encouraging energy-saving behaviors, such as washing only full loads of laundry and switching light bulbs to CLFs.

Every week gas, electric, and water savings data were updated and posted on sandwich boards displays, the Green Campus website, and sent via email directly to residents. Community advisors also went door-to-door to inform residents to inform them of their building’s current standing in the competition to reduce usage (compared to a baseline.)

To date, the total energy savings of program to date is 739,228.39 kWh for a total cost savings of $84,738.16.

If you would like additional information regarding this program, please visit greencampus.calpoly.edu.
Facility Services-Paint Shop. Bill Kellogg (Ag Education and Communication) wrote: Just a note to say thank you for having the painters do painting in the hallway of Building 10. They have done a wonderful job, and it looks so crisp and clean! Please extend our words of appreciation to your entire crew for a job well done.

Facility Services, Mark Hunter. Rick Johnson, Executive Director for ASI wrote: In the midst of all that is happening, I wanted to make sure you know how much we appreciate the work you and your staff are doing on our behalf. One specific example is the additional design/concept work for the UU Plaza project. The initiative and timing (not to mention creativity) of your contribution will truly enhance the final product, and benefit the campus. We/I appreciate the collaboration!

Sheree May (Human Resources). Jay DeNatale (CENG) wrote: Before heading off to "Retirement Land," I wanted to recognize a member of your team, Sheree May, for service well above-and-beyond the call of duty. In early October, I met with Sheree for a one-on-one meeting to discuss my possible retirement. She was extremely helpful; she explained the process, took time to explore my various options, and answered each of my questions fully. I never felt rushed, and I left thinking, “Wow—this woman really knows her stuff.” In early December, I met with Sheree again to submit my Service Retirement Election Application. In reviewing my application, she picked up a small error that I had made as well a more significant error that CalPERS had made. She took the time to call CalPERS on my behalf and convince them that they had indeed underestimated my final compensation. Wow, again. In my opinion, Ms. May is the consummate professional. She is knowledgeable, articulate, attentive to detail, and extremely patient. Sheree is a true asset to Cal Poly, and I feel blessed to have had this opportunity to work with her. Many thanks and best regards.

Don Popham (Facility Services). Ken Barclay (Student Life & Leadership) wrote: As you know this was a very challenging commencement, and you did a truly outstanding job. Your efforts and “can do” attitude got us through a lot of challenges we faced. Your staff also deserves a lot of kudos for their quality efforts and commitment in making this event so successful. Thanks again for everything.

Shannon Stire (Campus Dining) and Yuki Nashinaga (CP Corporation). Francis Hunter (Horticulture & Crop Science) wrote: Shannon, thank you so much! The breakfast was fabulous! People loved it. It was such a wonderful way to start the day and to thank our sponsors. We appreciate all you and your staff did to make it so special and to highlight our agricultural products. Yukie, the presentation was likewise gorgeous, and coordination seamless. Please extend our warm thanks to your staff. I look forward to working with you again in the future.

Brenda Tesch (Contracts, Procurement & Risk Management). Matt Roberts (Contracts, Procurement & Risk Management). Craig Schultz (ITS) wrote: A note of kudos for Brenda’s efforts that resolved a taxation issue with Dell- ASAP for all campus purchases. As a direct result of her persistence, the process has been updated and campuses have been notified through multiple venues (e.g. PSSO, CIO’s, directors of academic technologies, etc.) Excellent work very much appreciated by many across the system. Matt Roberts wrote: Thanks for following through on this with the CO and Dell/ASAP. As a direct result of your efforts a cost savings (in excess of 8%) is available for those campuses that choose to use this option.

Lisa West (Payroll). Debi Wages (Housing & Business Services) wrote: I work in University Housing as administrative coordinator. I am the time keeper for the entire Housing department. I wanted to let you know that since the past year that I have been in this position, I have really enjoyed building a great working relationship with Lisa West. She is always there for me when I need to ask a question, always willing to
help me with situations that may arise. There are days she will put a smile on my face when I am down or stressed. She is an amazing person with such a kind heart! I enjoy working with Lisa so much and she does such a great job. I just wanted to let someone know that she is definitely a huge asset to me and what I do with my job. I don’t know what I would do without Lisa.

Parking Services. Jan Falk (Parent) wrote: I appreciate the speed and competence that a permit error was corrected. I enjoy dealing with Cal Poly.

Cindy Campbell (Parking Services-UPD). Our very own Cindy Campbell graced the cover of Parking Today. Check out her feature article at: http://viewer.zmags.com/publication/a538bb39#/a538bb39/26

Yolanda Heredia (Student Accounts). Jodi Block (Sponsored Programs-CP Corp.) wrote: I just wanted to let you know Yolanda has always been a great help to Sponsored Programs in assisting our department with the tuition reimbursement process. I came across a problem with a non-resident student tuition reimbursement on a sponsored project and Yolanda went above and beyond in helping me solve the mystery. She very easily could have passed the problem on but she took the time to research it and explain it to me. The problem was resolved quickly and the student, DPTC and our department are very grateful for her assistance.

Tammy Logan (Student Accounts). Shirley Cochrane (Parent) wrote: Tammy Logan demonstrated excellent customer service, did a great job and we are fortunate to have her. Tammy “went above and beyond the call of duty” in helping Shirley and her family with much needed information. Thank you to Tammy for demonstrating outstanding customer service and commitment to the AFD principles in her work.

Georgia Wells (Contracts, Procurement & Risk Management). Tuan Nguyen (Facility Services) wrote: After the bidding process, BCS won the right to supply Cal Poly SLO’s pool chemicals for the next three years. On the state side, BCS reduced their chemical cost to about $1.35 per gallon. They were charging the state $2.09 per gallon. This represents a 35% decrease in chemical cost. George and the Contracts Team did a great job getting the best deal for us.

Contracts, Procurement & Risk Management. Larry Kelley (VP Administration & Finance) wrote: Congratulations to you and all the people in Procurement for the continuing efforts to serve Cal Poly in such a positive manner. It’s great to see those efforts get this recognition with the AEP award.

Susan Rains (Commuter Services-UPD). SLO Council of Governments (The Coordinator Publication) wrote: Congratulations to Cal Poly! Cal Poly was awarded a Gold Medal from the National Best Workplace for Commuters Program, spearheaded by the University of South Florida’s National Center for Transit Research. Cal Poly’s commuter Services program is coordinated by Susan Rains, who acknowledged that Cal Poly is very supportive of making improvements to encourage sustainable modes of transportation. Recently the University has increased the number of bike racks and has started a car sharing program. Kudos to Susan and her department for all their hard work in promoting transportation options!

Cheryl Andrus, Chad Reiley (UPD). Commander Lori Hashim (UPD) and SAFER wrote: SAFER conducted a training for their student volunteers and UPD was part of the agenda for their training which encompassed sexual assault prevention information and overall safety awareness. Cheryl Andrus and Officer Chad Reiley represented UPD and according to SAFER staff “they were outstanding.”

Officer Ray Easter (UPD). Commander Lori Hashim (UPD) wrote: Officer Ray Easter has been nominated for the CA “Avoid The 14” 2009 DUI officer of the year. All 14 agencies in SLO County nominate one officer from their agencies. Each officer is recognized at an appreciation luncheon where they are given certificates from the governors office as well as other government agencies. He made 41 DUI arrests in 2009 and he coordinated a DUI checkpoint that was on campus September 18, 2009. The campus community, including the student population, were thrilled with the checkpoint and appreciated the efforts to keep their campus community safe from drunk drivers.

REMINDER!
The Service Awards Luncheon is Wednesday, March 10, 2010 in the Chumash Auditorium. See you there!
Russell Moore (Facility Services). Johan Uyttewaal (Facilities Planning) wrote: Please transmit my thanks to the lead custodian in the Rec. Center and also to the gentlemen who helped me last night dealing with the water leak.

Juanita Javier (Facility Services). Art MacCarley (EE Department Chair) wrote: Thanks much for cleaning the carpet in my office (EE Department Chair, 20-200). I hadn't realized how dirty it had been getting until several people mentioned it to me. Looks very nice.

Celestino Delos Santos, Lario Tugas, Verona Pasti (Facility Services). Trey Duffy and DRC Staff (DRC) wrote: We want to acknowledge the fine work of our custodian. While the fact that he recently waxed the floors in the building (to a point that we feel ashamed to walk on them they are so beautiful) prompted us to inform you directly of our appreciation for his work, we also want you to know that on a regular basis he does an excellent job. I've only worked in the building a few years, but for those who have been here since 1904, they assure me he is the best we've ever had.

Paint Shop Crew (Facility Services). Christine Cobb (ARCH E) wrote: Just wanted to say that the painter who is painting the breezeway between ARCE and CRP has done a great job—it looks so nice! Everything looks so nice and fresh. I really appreciate that the painter took down our sign and painted under it and then put it back up; he just went above and beyond and I don't want it to go unrecognized. A huge thank you for making our building look a little nicer.

Nancy Reid (Biological Science Dept.) wrote: I would like to comment Josh Alton for being a great employee who is willing to work with my last minute requests to get things done. I so appreciate his helpfulness. This past spring and then again last week, I asked if it would be possible to work an office painting into the schedule even though I thought it a very remote possibility due to the short time frame. Not only has he gotten the projects done, he gets them done ahead of my drop-dead date and leaves the rooms move-in ready. Even the custodians are happy with the work, which can be a challenge most of the time. Joshua has proved to be a reliable, capable scheduler who I really appreciate. He's been receptive to all my requests (which are not always at the last minute) and helps to make Fisher and Science North better places to work.

Jason Thomson (Facility Services). David Ragsdale (Environmental Health & Safety) wrote: On Saturday morning, Ken Danko called me to report a spilled substance in the street and storm drain behind building 007. It turned out to be well drilling clay dumped by the CE/ENVE department. Jason Thomson of the plumbing shop came out, and responded Al’s Septic for a vacuum truck. I wanted to let you all know that both Jason and Al’s did an outstanding job for us, cleaning the storm sewer and surrounding street and sidewalk thoroughly and quickly. I really appreciate their efforts and they went above and beyond to help us out.

Custodial Staff (Facility Services). Dan Mull (ITS) wrote: I wanted to inform you of a recent situation that merits a thank you to and recognition of your custodial staff. Per the information in the forwarded email, your staff demonstrated willingness to help outside their area of responsibility in taking their time and interest in looking out for Cal Poly owned equipment. Evidently, two separate instructor left expensive, high demand AV equipment unattended in two different classrooms—on the same day. The equipment was checked out from MDS by those instructors and they were responsible for them. Thanks to your staff who took the initiative to leave the equipment in the AG office in Bldg. 10 with notes attached. The equipment is now back in MDS and the instructors have been contacted.

Kim Busby (Environmental Health & Safety). Brian Stark (Conservation Director, Ojai Valley Land Conservancy) wrote: I want you to know that I have appreciated the opportunity to work with you on projects at Cal Poly. Whether you know it or not, you have done a lot for the university in changing the way land managers think about land stewardship and the long-term implications to fish will be very positive.