

# ANNOUNCING FALL SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS!



## AVA BEDNAREK



California Polytechnic State University,  
San Luis Obispo  
Construction Management

I am originally from Stockton, California, and loved the experience of growing up in such a diverse city. It made me more aware of different cultures and taught me to appreciate the diversity in cultures and cuisine, especially when it comes to trying different foods. Cal Poly in San Luis Obispo is similar in that the school environment is very diverse. This mixture has offered me a variety of great college experiences.

I began my journey at Cal Poly as an architectural engineer major, but after my first quarter switched to construction management because I genuinely love the comradery and team mentality that the building process provides. I enjoy being a part of something that continually makes me learn and encourages growth, and I feel that construction management has offered this perspective.

I am a member of Women in Construction at Cal Poly, a service club that helps support and gain knowledge from established

female professionals in the industry. We have mentorship opportunities to help younger students in construction management to share insights with them. In my second year at Cal Poly, I was nominated to be a member of Sigma Lambda Chi, an honors society that recognizes students for their academic accomplishments as construction majors, and I was inducted in Fall 2019. I have made the Dean's List every quarter and have senior standing after attending Cal Poly for only three years. I am proud to say I expect to graduate two quarters early.

I am grateful to attend Cal Poly, my home away from home. I have always said I am driven by God's purpose and work extremely long hours to achieve my aspirations. My overall goal in life is to love God and love humanity more than anything else. I believe that whatever direction my career in this industry takes me, it will allow me to provide great construction infrastructure for our community.

## ARNOLDO LOPEZ



California State University, East Bay  
Construction Management

I'm originally from Antioch, located in Contra Costa County, also known as the East Bay. When I was in middle school, I moved to the Central Valley to a small town called Tracy. There I attended the rest of middle school, graduated high school and graduated from San Joaquin Delta College.

I chose construction management as a major after realizing that pursuing an engineering degree was not for me. I looked at other options and discovered that a Bachelor of Science in construction management was not only appealing but had a similar path as engineering. Fortunately, most of my previous credits could be applied to the construction management major. I was already

working in construction as a drywall tapper, so it seemed ideal to pursue a degree in an area I was familiarizing myself in.

Looking back at it now, it was probably the best decision I ever made in my life. I have enjoyed the knowledge I have gained from this major and how it has helped me firsthand with questions I've had on the field. My career goal is to excel in my current position with WACA member MGM Drywall, Inc. as a project engineer and become a project manager in the next couple of years. After becoming a project manager, I plan on attending graduate school to earn an MBA. I plan to eventually become a CEO or a vice president of a construction company later in my career.

## KRISTIN LORENTZEN



California Polytechnic State University,  
Pomona, Architecture

I spent most of my childhood moving around with my family. We would often relocate every couple of years or so. In this way, it is difficult for me to identify one place I am from, as I don't really consider myself to be from any particular place. I was born in High Wycombe, England, and spent the first year of my life there. I have spent most of my adult and teenage life in both northern and southern California, so at this point, I would consider California to be my permanent home and the place that is closest to my heart.

As a young girl, I did not know what I wanted to be when I grew up. My interest in architecture began at Cosumnes River College in Sacramento, California. I took an entry-level architecture course out of curiosity and was introduced to the profession by some of the most incredible and passionate professors. The application of both technical skill and

creativity made it challenging and engaging, and I absolutely fell in love with it. I eventually enrolled at Cal Poly Pomona and have been working toward my bachelor of architecture degree. Looking back to the beginning, taking a chance on a new career, and enrolling in that first architecture class completely changed the trajectory of my life.

My biggest objective after graduation is to become licensed to practice in California. My long-term goal is to open my own firm focusing on sustainability and designing projects that will make an impactful difference in the world; specifically for people who want to live and work in buildings that positively impact the environment and protect health and wellbeing. This is not only my personal commitment to my architectural career but a way to contribute toward a sustainable future.

## COLLIN MARTIN



California Polytechnic State University,  
San Luis Obispo  
Construction Management

I was born and raised in Marin County, just north of San Francisco. From the time I was born to the time I graduated high school, I focused on sports, specifically football. Playing football and sports overall taught me many life lessons — how to work on a team, properly manage my time, the value of hard work, the importance of respect, and so much more learned from working and collaborating with a team environment.

Aside from playing sports, I became interested in construction at a very young age due to my grandfather. My grandfather owns a construction company in the Bay Area, and ever since I can remember, he has been taking me to his job sites. Through middle school and high school, I

worked as a laborer and carpenter for his company. I enjoyed working with my hands, being a part of a team, and the satisfaction of bringing someone's ideas to life. During this time, my passion for construction grew immensely. When it came time to pick a college major, I chose construction management at Cal Poly.

After graduating in spring 2021, I'll be working full time as a project manager for my grandfather's company. My goal is to use the knowledge I have gained from my time at Cal Poly to grow the company. The experiences I have had at Cal Poly have taught me so much and I am extremely excited to bring that knowledge back home to my family's business.

## JOSE RAMOS VARGAS



California State University, East Bay  
Construction Management

I am originally from a small town in Michoacán, Mexico, named Chavinda. Despite its beautiful and rich culture, poverty was a great factor that drove my parents to move our entire family to the United States in search of the mysterious American dream. I was 8 months old when we relocated. I have lived in Oakland my entire life since then. Even though I have zero memory of Chavinda, I hold myself enrooted in the cultures and traditions of what was once home, while striving to reach the great American dream.

My interest in construction began when I would see my father come home from work in his construction clothes and telling me stories about the heavy machinery he would operate. That fascination soon turned into something bigger. When I was 16, my father brought me to work for a retaining wall company where he was working. I worked summers to earn some cash; soon this job turned into a passion for the complex, fast-growing, yet familiar industry. I appreciated manual labor, but I

loved the idea of managing even more. What was first a summer job to earn cash to purchase my first car turned into the decision that would change my life — choosing construction management as my major.

Coming from humble beginnings, I see every milestone I have achieved as a great accomplishment that serves as a stepping stone to future goals. My biggest goal is to help build communities like the ones I grew up in that desperately need infrastructure.

Being out in the field is one of my biggest fulfillments. I plan on being a superintendent so I can manage projects in the environment I enjoy the most. I aspire to serve as a mentor and a role model to the younger generation that comes from backgrounds like myself. I would be grateful to be a source of motivation by demonstrating reaching goals is possible through education and determination.