Cal Poly Pomona Philanthropic Foundation FAQs

Q Doesn’t Cal Poly Pomona already have a foundation? Why create a new one?
A Yes. In 1966, Cal Poly Pomona Foundation Inc. was established as a nonprofit, auxiliary organization to operate university enterprises or businesses, including dining services, the Bronco Bookstore, University Village and the Kellogg West Conference Center & Hotel. It was not created originally with philanthropy in mind. Due to the legal structure of the entity, it cannot obtain matching gifts from certain corporate foundations because it was established to run enterprises. Creating a new philanthropic foundation separates out the philanthropic functions from the enterprise operations, expanding the pool of prospective donors and grant-making foundations for Cal Poly Pomona. With philanthropy as its sole focus, the new foundation will ensure a culture of thriving philanthropy and successful stewardship.

Q Who is in charge of the new philanthropic foundation and how does it operate?
A The new foundation has a board of directors who have fiduciary responsibilities and are committed to the fund-raising success and long-term fiscal health of Cal Poly Pomona. It consists of alumni and industry leaders who can help raise the university’s profile in the region, serve as ambassadors and help the university engage with prospective donors and corporate partners. The board will provide the university president with advice and counsel on institutional priorities and oversee endowment investments and investment policies. Each board member will also make their own philanthropic commitment to the university.

Q How will this affect students?
A Generally, students should not notice any changes or differences, but thanks to new streamlined processes, student organizations and clubs will have an easier time accessing their funds.

Q How can I tell how the new foundation is spending donated monies?
A The foundation will post its annual report, audited financial statements, IRS 990 tax forms, IRS 501(c)(3) determination letters and giving and investment policies on its website.

Q What will happen to the funds that were donated to the existing foundation?
A Funds that were used to create endowments and scholarships will be moved from the existing foundation to the new philanthropic foundation. The funds will still be used to support their original intent and the mission of the university.

Q How will this affect future giving to Cal Poly Pomona?
A Donors to Cal Poly Pomona will need to direct their gifts to the new philanthropic foundation. Within the campus community, the deans, associate deans and budget analysts at each college will become familiar and interact with the new philanthropic foundation.

Q What fees are assessed on contributions?
A A 5 percent gift fee is assessed on all contributions.

Q What is the 5 percent gift fee used for?
A The 5 percent gift fee funds a portion of the fund-raising and campus-wide advancement programs in order to increase private philanthropy to benefit the mission of the university.

For more information, visit our website cpp.edu/philanthropy