

CEAC Newsletter

June 2018

Produced by Patrick DeChellis, CEAC Newsletter Editor



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All Materials Submitted
are

Subject to the "3 R's":

- Review
- Revision
- Rejection

President's Message

By: Jeff Pratt, Director of Public Works, Ventura County

I am writing this article under the assumption that you have had an opportunity to read my April 2018 message in CEAC's newsletter. If not, please take a moment to read it on-line at the CEAC website.

The Oversight Policy Committee (OPC) work to accomplish its goals continues apace. The CEAC Policy Committee (PC) charters are complete and electronic signatures are being collected. An Affiliate Committee (AC) charter has been developed and the AC is being populated as we speak. The Regional Director (RD) charter is complete in draft form and under discussion at the OPC – it should be ready for distribution and signatures within the next two weeks. Each of the charters layout expectations and are designed to bring consistency and relevance to the committee's work in accord with CEAC's Bylaws.

The OPC has developed a draft "CEAC Member Input" survey. The intent of the survey is to gather your thoughts on CEAC workplans and activities. We hope to have it out to you in July. An outreach and messaging plan is under development. I believe that its completion will depend upon some of the results from the survey, but we may be able to try some ideas out in the interim (under discussion at the OPC).

The last OPC effort to discuss in this Newsletter is the draft workplan under development. This is a plan template that can be passed to future officers of CEAC for ease of transition. It defines the recurring annual work and provides for each year's special initiatives.

I am encouraged by the reports coming in from some of the RD's and PC's. Webinars are being discussed and arranged, e-meetings are occurring which eliminate travel times, and charters have been reviewed and discussed with the committee participants. The OPC efforts have received a lot of positive feedback from these committees.

Other future near-term objectives of the OPC include:

- Regularly scheduled conference calls with RD's
- Regularly scheduled conference calls with PC chairs and co-chairs
- Development of "Regional Employee Recognition Program" (from the bylaws)
- Development of a CEAC e-meeting infrastructure

Why all the work? To make **CEAC RELEVANT** to **YOU**. This cannot happen without your **ASSISTANCE**. Please take the time to thoughtfully complete the survey upon receipt. And to the extent that you are able, please get involved.'

Should you have any questions, thoughts or ideas about the OPC effort or you would like to get more involved, feel free to e-mail me at jeff.pratt@ventura.org or give me a call at 805.654.2073.

Hope to see you at the Fall Policy Conference in Sacramento, September 12 and 13.

Thanks, Jeff



JUNE 2018 ISSUE

Upcoming CEAC Events

- ♦ **Northern California Bedroll Conference -**
August 1-3, 2018, Camp Conery, Lake Almanor, Plumas County
- ♦ **13th Annual CEAC Policy Conference -**
September 12-13, 2018, Capitol Event Center, Sacramento
- ♦ **NACE Western Region Conference -**
October 24-26, 2018, Aquarius Resort, Laughlin, NV
- ♦ **Annual Meeting/Fall Conference -**
November 27-30, 2018, Marriott Marquis San Diego Marina
- ♦ **Spring Conference (Public Works Officers Institute) -**
April 3-5, 2019, Paradise Point Hotel, San Diego
- ♦ **NACE Annual Meeting -** April 14-18, 2019, Wichita, Kansas



THANK YOU TO OUR EARLY SPONSORS!



October 24 - 26, 2018

Aquarius Casino Resort, Laughlin, NV

Conference Registration: \$175

Hotel Reservations: \$42.99 Per night at the Aquarius Casino Resort, book by October 10th. Call the Aquarius Resort at 1-800-662-5825 and ask for the **Group Code C-ACE18.**

Sacramento Motherlode Region News

By: Panos Kokkas, Regional Director, Yolo County

As public works and transportation professionals, we are responsible for all aspects of municipal infrastructure, of which a major component is surface transportation, a system that keeps our society functioning. Transportation is one of our major elements of our well-being, from driving to work, school or grocery store, to goods delivery and emergency response. Looking at history, we realize that a comprehensive transportation system has been a major part of all advanced civilizations.

For several years, multiple conscientious entities, including the State Legislature, Governor, CSAC, CEAC members and many more have worked tirelessly to pass the Road Repair & Accountability Act of 2017, also known as Senate Bill 1 – accountable legislation that will preserve and maintain the state’s transportation infrastructure system and protect the quality of life available to all residents by preserving safe travel on California roads. Regrettably, we are all aware of and alarmed by a dark cloud looming on the horizon (repeal of SB1) ready to destroy the surface transportation system, for some perceived, yet unknown gains to very few eccentric individuals. In some mythical circles, these dark clouds are known as “evil forces” trying to undo elements that are beneficial to the majority of the population.

As we proceed with our routine work, we are aware of the damage that a repeal of SB1 will do to the state’s transportation infrastructure. The counties in our region are making a conscious effort to educate the public by installing informational signs at road construction sites that improvements are funded by “gas taxes.” It is imperative that we also continue to inform the public of the negative impact to the road system by a potential repeal of SB1. Following are just a few of the unique projects Sacramento Motherlode Region counties have been busy with, protecting the precious transportation infrastructure, from which we can all learn.

Alpine County- the only access road to the wastewater treatment plant in Markleeville crosses over Millberry Creek – a small stream with normally low flow. The crossing has a history of washing out during large winter storms and has been routinely repaired by putting the corrugated metal culvert back in place and rebuilding the road. Winter storms in 2017 washed the road out two times; once in January requiring an emergency repair and again in February resulting in the culvert being completely blown out and washed downstream. The California and Federal disaster declarations following the February storms provided the opportunity for the County to pursue a more robust solution. The reconstructed crossing now has a new 8’ x 4’ reinforced concrete box culvert with wing walls, rock rip rap and a rock reinforced structural road section designed to withstand high velocity flows should a storm event overtop the road. The access road over the culvert was redesigned as a low water crossing should the culvert capacity be exceeded in a future extreme storm event. After an arduous process of working through the disaster assistance process with FEMA and obtaining all necessary permits and environmental clearances, construction was completed in January 2018. The new crossing easily handled high flows in Millberry Creek that occurred once again in March 2018.



Sacramento Motherlode Region News (continued)

By: Panos Kokkas, Regional Director, Yolo County

Nevada County - During the first series of atmospheric river events that hit the area, a section of southbound Brunswick Road south of East Bennett Street began to settle. As these storms passed through Nevada County, this portion of road continued to settle and slip. The southbound lane was closed in early February, as this portion of road has settled by more than 18 inches. Based on a previous geotechnical report, it was determined a major contributor to the road failure was due to excessive ground water saturating the road fill material used when the road was built more than 50 years ago. In early spring, the County installed horizontal drains into the roadway which relieved some of the hydrostatic pressure on the fill to help minimize the risk of continued settlement/slip. In addition, this allowed staff to schedule the permanent repairs. In July, the County contracted permanent repairs that included the installation of a 16-foot deep, 300-foot long French drain on the east side of the roadway. The project also included removal of approximately 300 linear feet of roadway, 8 feet in depth, reconstruction of the failed fill section, and repaving of the damaged area. The busy road – a regional arterial carrying more than 15,000 vehicles per day – was shut down for approximately 10 days while crews worked 24-hour shifts.



Nevada County's High Friction Surface Treatment (HFST) project included the installation of skid-resistant pavement surfacing at 19 high collision curves throughout the county and included locations on Alta Sierra Drive, Bitney Springs Road, Rough and Ready Highway, Dog Bar Road, La Barr Meadows Road, Greenhorn Road, McCourtney Road, Lime Kiln Road, You Bet Road, Ridge Road, Brunswick Road, and Auburn Road. The project was funded through the Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP), and locations were identified on the basis of crash experience, crash potential, crash rates, and severity of crashes at these locations.



Sacramento Motherlode Region News (continued)

By: Panos Kokkas, Regional Director, Yolo County

Sacramento County - The Fulton Avenue project completed street rehabilitation and street improvements on a key arterial roadway serving the Arden-Arcade and other northern Sacramento County communities. The \$4.1M project improved Fulton Avenue between Arden Way and Auburn Boulevard including rehabilitation of the existing pavement and base repair, asphalt concrete overlay, construction of sidewalk infill and new ADA ramps at intersections, installation of bike lanes, median reconstruction and traffic signal improvements including video detection and ADA upgrades. The project was funded by Federal RSTP funds, with matching funds from the SB 1 Local Streets & Roads program. Construction began in September 2017 and was completed in May 2018.



Sacramento County's Hazel Avenue congestion relief, safety, complete street and road rehabilitation improvements is between Curragh Downs Drive and Sunset Avenue. Hazel Avenue is a critical north-south corridor serving eastern Sacramento County and the communities of Fair Oaks, Orangevale and Gold River. This \$22 million project included widening Hazel Avenue to six lanes with landscaped medians; installing new curbs, gutters, sidewalks, bike lanes and bus stops; upgrading existing intersections and traffic signals; installing ADA-compliant accessibility improvements; undergrounding overhead utilities; rehabilitating the existing pavement including a rubberized asphalt concrete overlay; and installing soundwalls, landscaping and streetscape features throughout the corridor.





NACE Report - Summer 2018

By: **Mike Penrose, NACE Representative, Sacramento County**



NACE held its annual meeting at the Chula Vista Resort in Wisconsin Dells, Wisconsin, on April 22-26. The conference was well attended with County Engineers from all over the Country. California had sixteen participants at the conference including CEAC Officers - Jim Porter, CEAC Vice President, and Rick Tippet, CEAC Secretary. The conference included a broad spectrum of topics and educational sessions on all things "County Engineering and Public Works". Also included was an outstanding exhibitors program. Panos Kokkas, Yolo County, presented on Full Depth Reclamation at a session on Pavement Preservation. Scott McGolpin, Santa Barbara County, presented at a session on Transportation Disaster Damage Assessment. Tom Matson, Humboldt County; Panos Kokkas; and Rick Tippet all participated in the NACE/FHWA Hands-On Local Road Safety Plan Pilot Workshop. Finally, the Snap-E-Tom Reception, hosted by CEAC was a great success. Well over 150 Bloody Mary's were served to County Engineers from all over the country, helping them to get their Wednesday morning started the "right" way – LOL.

The selection and installment of new officers occurred at the conference. The new NACE president is Richard C. Sanders, Polk County, Minnesota, and our very own Scott McGolpin was elected NACE Secretary/Treasurer.



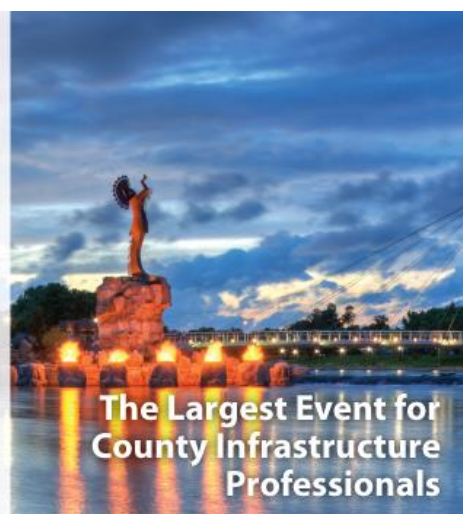
In other NACE news - Kevan Stone was named NACE's Executive Director, effective May 15, 2018. Kevan will serve as the spokesman for NACE and the nation's county infrastructure professionals.

Kevan will guide the federal advocacy with aligned organizations and partners; and promote issues crucial to modernizing American's infrastructure. He will also direct the operations, corporate and external relations, initiatives and staff of the association.

Kevan previously served as the Associate Legislative Director for Transportation and Infrastructure at the National Association of Counties (NACo). He led all policy development and advocacy pertaining to the county role in ownership and maintenance of roads, bridges, airports and other important infrastructure.

Prior to NACo, Kevan served as Policy Advisor for former House of Representatives Transportation Committee Chairman John Mica.

NACE 2019 will be held April 14-18 2019, in Wichita, Kansas, hosted by the Kansas County Highway Association.



NACE Annual Meeting



Can anyone tell these three
County Engineers apart???



NACE Annual Meeting (continued)



Rick Tippet, Trinity County, and **Scott McGolpin**, Santa Barbara County - Rick will be President of CEAC and Scott will be President of NACE at the same time - 2020-21.



Installation of the **2018-19 NACE Officers** - **Scott McGolpin**, Santa Barbara County, 3rd from the right, was installed as the NACE Secretary/Treasurer; Scott will be NACE President in 2020-21



NACE 2018 WISCONSIN DELLS

Bus Service Courtesy of

- Association of County Engineers of Alabama
- County Engineers Association of California
- County Engineers Association of Ohio
- Florida Association of County Engineers & Road Superintendents
- Illinois Association of County Engineers
- Iowa County Engineers Association
- Kansas County Highway Association
- Minnesota County Engineers Association
- South Dakota Association of County Highway Superintendents
- Washington State Association of County Engineers

 www.countyengineers.org

NACE Annual Meeting (continued)



Jim Porter, San Mateo County, showing off. **Wonder if this will be enough for the 2019 Buffalo Bull Award?**



Trinity and **Humboldt** were 2 of five California counties out of a total of 25 counties from six different states selected by FHWA to develop local road safety plans. There were three webinars and a Hands-On Workshop on Sunday April 22, 2018 at the NACE Annual Meeting in Wisconsin Dells.

2018 Public Works Secretarial Seminar

By: Terra Prestwich and Lynn Scally



Santa Cruz County hosted the 2018 Public Works Secretarial Seminar, April 25-27, in beautiful Santa Cruz. The attendees stayed at the Hotel Paradox. The Seminar began with a reception on Wednesday evening at the hotel followed by dinner. There were approximately 45 attendees who toured the Buena Vista Landfill, Aptos Esplanade Pump Station, Twin Lakes Beachfront Improvement project, the D.A. Porath Facility and lastly the Santa Cruz County Governmental Center/Public Works offices. Everyone really enjoyed the Seminar and can't wait for next year's! Below are a few photos of the Seminar and attendees.



BUENA VISTA LANDFILL & RECYCLING CENTER



APTOS ESPLANADE PUMP STATION

Droppings...from out of the past

By: Dave "Road Runner" Gravenkamp, CEAC Historian



Senator Randolph Collier

As I drive by the Siskiyou County courthouse almost daily, I'm continually reminded of the individual who probably had the most significant impact on the road systems of every county in the State. The life-size bronze statue of Randolph Collier sitting on a park bench with his newspaper occupies a prominent spot at the northeast corner of the courthouse block. Numerous other tributes to Collier are scattered throughout the north state. The Collier Rest Stop is the first rest area on I-5 from the north and Collier Way is the principal entry into the City of Etna in Siskiyou County. Collier Tunnel in Del Norte County is located on SR 199 linking Grants Pass, Oregon with Crescent City. No doubt many of your counties can claim roads, bridges, parks, etc., named after the Senator.

Randolf Clayton Collier was born in Etna on July 26, 1902. He attended Siskiyou Union High School in Yreka. A turning point in his life came at age 13 with the death of his mother. He attended UC Berkeley where he met and subsequently married Aida Pillsbury. Upon graduation, they returned to Yreka where he took over his father's failing abstract company. Collier's start in politics came in 1925 when he became Police Judge in Yreka serving in that capacity until 1938 when he was elected to the State Senate.

Prior to 1948, most counties, particularly rural counties, divided what little road money available into five equal parts. Each county supervisor had his own road foreman and crew who worked only on roads in his district. The Collier-Burns Act established one unified county road system headed by a road commissioner

appointed by the Board of Supervisors. With the assistance of the Institute of Transportation and Traffic Engineering headed by Harmer Davis, a formula was devised for the state-wide distribution of the new gas tax provided for in this bill. Counties benefited greatly and rural counties benefited *enormously*.

Senator Collier chaired the Senate Transportation Committee from 1946 to 1968 and the Senate Finance Committee from 1969 to 1974. At one time he was considered the most powerful legislator in the State, even more powerful than the Governor. It has been said that votes in Collier's committee were always unanimous and always in agreement with the Senator. In the later 60s and early 70s, when I-5 was being constructed through Siskiyou County, the Division of Highways proposed an alignment which bypassed Yreka and followed a less severe vertical alignment through Montague located six miles to the east. Senator Collier promptly authored legislation which mandated that the Interstate pass through the county seat.

Other important transportation legislation during his tenure included the California Freeway System Act of 1959 and the California Transportation Agency Act of 1961. Collier served as a State Senator from January 2, 1939 to December 6, 1976. Randolph Collier died in Sacramento on August 2, 1983.

Known as the "Silver Fox of the Siskiyous", "The Father of the Freeways", and "Randy" to his friends in CEAC, Collier was a staunch supporter of good roads. The Ed Hannas, Bruce McClains, Bill McIntoshes and others were always welcomed in Collier's Office. CEAC, however, ceased to be his friend with the passage of the Collier-Unruh Act. Collier insisted on a level of general fund support in his language, yet CEAC backed the less restrictive Unruh approach. Although the Hannas, McClains and McIntoshes continued as friends, our organization lost a powerful ally. However, Randy did attend the CLODS BBQ in Fresno in 1981.

I wonder had we chosen to ride a different horse, would our fiscal plight today be any different?

In Memoriam

Richard D. Welton



Richard D. Welton **CEAC President 1989-90**

"Parakeet"

CEAC Engineer of the Year 1994

NACE Urban County Engineer of the Year 1994

Richard D. Welton, CEAC President 1989-90, passed away peacefully on May 23, 2018, two days short of his 82nd birthday at Hind's Hospice Home in Fresno. He was born on May 25, 1936 in Los Angeles to Cecil and Dorothy Welton. His father was a heavy construction manager of tunnels, highways, missile bases, and the underground NORAD Project in the Cheyenne Mountains in Colorado. The family lived in Oregon, California, Nevada, Arizona, and Colorado. Richard graduated from Chico State in 1959 with a civil engineering degree.

Richard started his career with Fresno County as a public works party chief, then as a resident engineer, maintenance engineer, and design engineer. He moved to Tulare County as the Assistant Director of Public Works, then to Merced County as the Deputy Director for Public Works, before finally returning to Fresno County. He was appointed to head the new Department of Public Works and Development Services which consolidated the Departments of Public Works, Resources and Development, Planning, and Community Development. He retired in 1996 after working for 35 years. His professional involvement included:

- National Society of Professional Engineers
- American Public Works Association
- National Society of County Engineers (NACE)
- County Engineers Association of California (CEAC)
- California Society of Professional Engineers
- CEAC's representative to NACE from 1991 to 1996
- Appointed by Governor Wilson to serve on the Local Government Technical Advisory Committee of the California Integrated Management Board from 1993 to 1996
- Member of the California State University School of Engineering and Computer Science Advisory Board
- MBA Class Instructor 1989
- Member of the Fresno County Flood Control Board including Chairmanship for one year
- Outstanding Civil Engineer in Public Service 1988 by the Fresno Branch of the American Society of Civil Engineers
- Executive of the Year by the Professional Secretaries International in Fresno County 1983
- Boy Scout Leader
- Boys Indian Guide Leader

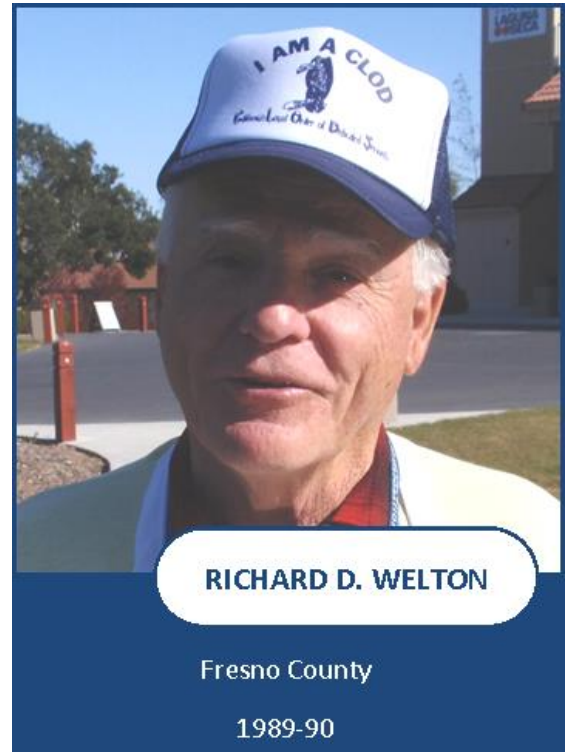
In Memoriam

Richard D. Welton

Richard D. Welton

CEAC President 1989-90

Richard will be fondly remembered for his creativity and expertise in building, a strong work ethic, loving support of family and friends, being a lifetime learner and teacher, and living life to its fullest. He is survived by his beloved wife of 61 years, Carol; daughter Kimberly and husband Joaquin; son Steven and wife Jeannine; and son Kevin and wife Ramona.



“Once a CLOD, always a CLOD”

Richard at his last CLOD's BBQ—
December 2016 Riverside County



In Memoriam

Robert (Bob McCrea)

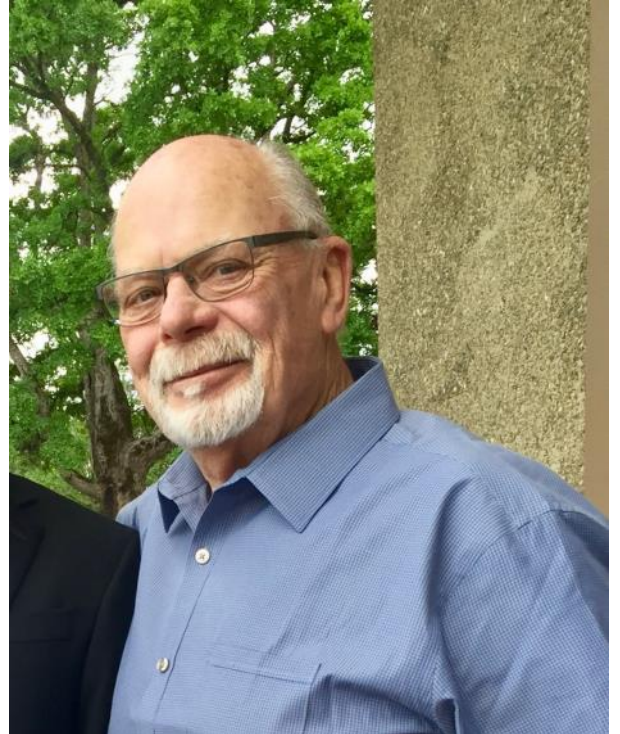
Robert (Bob) McCrea

It is with sad, but full hearts that we share the passing of our dear colleague, father, husband, grandfather, and friend—Robert McCrea. He left us last month (May 2018) in peace knowing how truly loved he was by so many. He is survived by a family that loves him deeply led by his amazing wife, Linda, as well as countless others touched by his generous spirit.

Bob McCrea dedicated his career as an engineer to serving as a valued technical advisor and resource for agency and industry individuals and organizations for over 35 years. He first worked for the US Forest Service and then with Western Emulsions. Bob was an active member of CEAC for many years and also served as President and Board Member of the California Chip Seal Association. As a committee member working with Caltrans and local agencies, he promoted and advanced pavement preservation and recycling techniques. Bob was known for his mentoring and guidance to many people in the industry and will be missed.

Bob (“Mr. B”) asked that those who want to share their love for him continue his legacy with a donation to the “Robert McCrea Community Project Memorial Fund.” With the help of the Northstate Women’s Health Network, an organization that both Linda and Mr. B supported for over 20 years, this fund is being started with a community project very near and dear to Mr. B’s heart - a student delegation to El Salvador. For over a decade, Shasta County students have been engaged in projects that Mr. B was so passionate about, including road construction, water systems, and community centers in ways that bring people together.

Since 2007, Mr. B’s son-in-law, Christopher Rodriguez, a History Instructor at Shasta College, has led ten student-delegations to El Salvador where participants have invested funds for locally-defined infrastructure projects. Mr. B was passionate about these trips as they support his dedication to community projects on a global scale. This January for two weeks 17 students will be living with families in the countryside and working with them to improve access to portable water.



To find out more about how you can contribute or get involved with this project, please visit www.northstatewomenshelathnetwork.org

Margarita Kovalchuk

Former Recipient of a CEAC Scholarship (September 2016)

What is she up to NOW?



President's Update



(Above) Sacramento State President
Robert S. Nelsen

(R) **Margarita Kovalchuk** receiving the CEAC Scholarship check from then Director of Transportation, Sacramento County, **Mike Penrose** (Sept 2016)



As President, I have the honor of selecting one of the recipients of the Dean's Award to receive the President's Medal. The Dean's Award honors one outstanding student from each college who exemplifies academic excellence, community involvement, and engagement within his or her college and on campus. Many of these students have overcome incredible odds and heartbreaking experiences to earn their degree.

I was honored to meet and hear the stories of each Dean Awardee. Each is an outstanding student who exemplifies what it means to be a Hornet, and we are all proud of what they have achieved.

From this extraordinary group, I have selected Margarita Kovalchuk from the College of Engineering and Computer Science to receive the President's Medal. Margarita is the daughter of religious refugees from the Soviet Union, and she began school as an English Language Learner. Through persistence and dedication, Margarita soon excelled in her studies. In high school, Margarita looked for potential college majors that would help people. She had never considered engineering, but at a Society of Women Engineers event, she learned how she could directly impact lives through engineering.

During her time at Sacramento State, Margarita has been active in the California Energy Commission, the Society of Women Engineers, the American Society of Civil Engineers, and numerous other educational outreach opportunities. She also has served as a President's Ambassador. Margarita will be the first in her family to graduate from college. This Saturday (May 19th), she will earn a Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering and graduate Summa Cum Laude. Margarita soon will be headed to Stanford to begin working toward her master's degree in civil and environmental engineering with a full scholarship from the National Science Foundation.

The Hornet Family has thousands of stories of persistent and dedicated students who are determined to get an education. I am honored to award Margarita Kovalchuk the President's Medal, and I know that she will continue to make us proud as member of the Hornet Family. She may go on to wear Cardinal Red, but she will always bleed green and gold.