Building industry helps give CM a new home

When Sacramento State’s award-winning Construction Management program was elevated to a full-fledged academic department, it was time to move its administrative offices out of Civil Engineering’s compound and into a home befitting its new independence.

Department Chair Mikael Anderson claimed two empty rooms in Riverside Hall – with spectacular views of tall trees and the Guy West Bridge – but had no budget to convert them into proper offices. The estimated cost to renovate the 400-square-foot space exceeded $20,000.

Before long, some of CM’s loyal supporters from the local construction world came to the rescue. Sac State CM alumnus Henry Meier, who is project executive for Swinerton Builders and president of CM’s industry advisory board, rallied contractors and building professionals from a variety of companies to donate their time, materials and labor to the project.

Swinerton did the demolition and provided the manpower and materials for the metal-stud walls, door and window framing and glazing, door installation and reinstallation of mailroom casework. Lionakis Beaumont Design Group Inc. designed the new spaces. Schetter Electric managed the electrical installations. And New West Partitions installed the gypsum board drywall, which WF Hayward Co. taped and finished.

“Industry did it as a community,” says Anderson. “They knew we had a need, and they got it done in three weeks.”

Meier is president of the Sacramento Construction Management Education Foundation (SCMEF), a nonprofit advisory board made up of leaders in the local building, heavy highway, civil and specialty contractor industries. Many are graduates of Sac State’s Construction Management program.

SCMEF hosts events to enhance CM students’ academic experience, and raises money for scholarships and to cover the students’ travel expenses to regional and national competitions. Sac State recently won the Design-Build Institute of America’s national championship and the Associated Schools of Construction’s inaugural HealthCare Preconstruction title.
Graduates of Sac State’s Construction Management program have had a hand in high-profile construction projects around Northern California, including Levi’s Stadium (future home of the San Francisco 49ers) and Terminal B at Sacramento International Airport.

Every CM graduate in the last two years has gone straight from Sacramento State to managing a job site in Northern California, or beyond.

For more information on the Construction Management program, visit www.ecs.csus.edu/cm/ or call (916) 278-6616. For media assistance, contact Sacramento State’s Office of Public Affairs at (916) 278-6156. – Dixie Reid

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