

From: [President of CSU Maritime Academy](#)
Subject: CSU Trustees Approve Integration of Cal Maritime and Cal Poly
Date: Thursday, November 21, 2024
Attachments: [image002.png](#)
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November 21, 2024

Dear Cal Maritime Community,

Today, the CSU Board of Trustees approved the integration of California State University Maritime Academy and California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo (Cal Poly). In July 2025, our campus will be renamed as the Cal Poly Solano campus and serve as the home of the Cal Poly Maritime Academy.

This transformative change will provide our campus with financial, administrative, enrollment, and admissions support to ensure stability and growth. The integration will also enhance our experiential learning opportunities by expanding on Cal Poly's "Learn by Doing" education model.

The integration will progress in two major phases.

First, effective July 1, 2025, our two universities will begin operating as a single institution under President Armstrong. The Cal Poly Solano campus will be led by a vice president and CEO who will report to President Armstrong. The Cal Poly Maritime Academy will be led by a superintendent. We are in the process of identifying an executive search firm to assist us with identifying outstanding candidates to be considered for these roles.

The second phase will occur with the Fall 2026 semester, when full integration of academic and student support services is completed. At this point, all degrees and services will be offered by Cal Poly, and all enrolled students will be Cal Poly students.

Merging two universities is a complex task, and the process is underway. As I have previously shared, we are working closely with individuals from Cal Poly and the CSU Chancellor's Office on the integration implementation. With its extensive experience in higher education integrations, the consulting firm Baker Tilly is supporting us in this endeavor. Seven specialized teams have been created to address the critical areas of integration, including academics; enrollment; student affairs; advancement; financial and administrative operations; technology; and regulatory matters. These discussions will shape a comprehensive implementation plan for a successful integration of the two universities.

Jessica Darin, Cal Poly's vice president for strategic initiatives and advocacy, will lead the integration at both the strategic and implementation levels as the Chancellor's project sponsor for the integration effort. In her role, she will work with both university presidents as the integration implementation moves forward. Jessica will evaluate, make, and escalate decisions to leadership as required.

In addition, Rachel Fernflores, Cal Poly's director of semester conversion, will work with faculty and academic leaders at both campuses throughout the integration to ensure that curricular considerations are thoughtful, informed, and transparent.

Our unique maritime focus and license track degree programs will remain intact, delivered through the Cal Poly Solano campus. With this integration, our students will benefit from Cal Poly's strong reputation as a comprehensive polytechnic institution, gaining access to a wide range of academic resources, strategic enrollment management, student, financial and other services.

A press release from the CSU Chancellor's Office may be found at: <https://www.calstate.edu/csu-system/news/Pages/maritime-cal-poly-integration-vote.aspx>.

This integration will have positive impacts across our campus operations and the services available to our students — and I am committed to keeping you up to date as the integration effort progresses. For details on the progress of the integration effort, please visit: calpoly.edu/maritime.

I am excited about the huge impact this integration will have on our students, our academic programs, and the California State University system. As I have said before, integration efforts are very complex undertakings and there will be hiccups that we will have to work through together. I look forward to working alongside you and thank you for your support and contributions to this effort.

Respectfully,

Mike

Michael J. Dumont, J.D.
Interim President



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