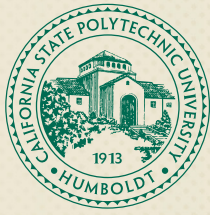


Cal Poly
Humboldt.

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March 2026
**Polytechnic
Financial Planning
Update and
Budget Request**





Cal Poly Humboldt.

Dear EVC Lenz,

I am writing on behalf of our University president, leadership team, and campus community to highlight Cal Poly Humboldt's continuing progress and collective work to fulfill our polytechnic transformation as outlined in our prospectus. Our University has made great strides towards our commitments, and financial sustainability.

We sincerely appreciate the continued support and collaboration from the CSU.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "MF", written in a cursive style.

Michael Fisher

Acting Vice President of Administration & Finance



March 2026 Polytechnic Financial Planning Update and Budget Request

In the Budget Act of 2021, Governor Gavin Newsom and the California State Legislature agreed on a state budget that included allocating \$433 million in one-time and \$25 million in ongoing resources to Humboldt State University (HSU). On September 1, 2021, HSU submitted our comprehensive prospectus, which displays our forward-looking articulation of what a “different type of polytechnic” can be for the next generations of learners in the CSU. On January 26, 2022, California State Polytechnic University, Humboldt—or Cal Poly Humboldt—officially became California’s third polytechnic campus.

Just over four years later, Cal Poly Humboldt continues to demonstrate strong momentum and measurable progress. Applications for attendance remain strong. Phase I of the polytechnic academic program implementation is complete as evidenced by eight new bachelor’s programs, one master’s program, and three certificates. Phase II planning began last year with the establishment of a Health Task Force that provided programmatic recommendations for health-related polytechnic programs for 2026. Additional partnerships with community and industry stakeholders led to programmatic planning in agriculture, technology, and applied fields. Hiring for diverse faculty and staff continues for new programs. Construction has been completed on our new 964-student residence hall and the new Engineering & Technology facility, Cal Poly Humboldt’s flagship academic building, is on track to open for the 2026-27 academic year.

This report outlines the university’s progress to date and presents our updated financial planning and budget request in support of continued polytechnic development.

OPERATIONAL PLANNING UPDATE — \$25 MILLION

► 2024-25 Spending Update

2024-25 spending is reflected in the table below. The ongoing investments total \$20.7 million out of the \$21.2 million ongoing budget allocation, reflecting 97% spent. Each category itemized in that table has a distinct section following the 2025-26 Budget Request section that provides a more in-depth summary of progress and priorities for each category.

2024-25 Ongoing Budget	Budget	Actuals	Encumbrances	Balance Remaining
Academic Programs Buildout	15,252,000	14,927,628	-	324,372
Student Recruitment and Retention	3,585,000	3,585,000	-	-
Communications, Marketing, and Branding	1,162,000	952,000	-	210,000
Infrastructure	1,272,000	1,272,000	-	-
Total Ongoing Costs	21,271,000	20,736,628	-	534,372

The 2024-25 one-time Revised Budget and actuals shown in the tables below reflect the new one-time allocation of \$8,710,890 provided by the Chancellor’s Office during the year, plus the remaining one-time encumbrance and carry-forward balances from the prior year, to provide a comprehensive picture of one-time spending (\$24.1 million) during 2024-25 and beyond.

Poly One-Time Revised Budget Breakdown	Amount			
2024-25 Poly One-Time Allocation	8,710,890	-	-	-
2023-24 Encumbrances	2,893,984	-	-	-
2023-24 Carry Forward Activity	11,065,665	-	-	-
Investments from the Funds Held at Campus	1,433,333			
Revised 2024-25 Poly One-Time Budget	24,103,872	-	-	-
2024-25 One-Time Expenditures	Revised 24-25 Budget	Actuals	Encumbrances	Balance Remaining
Academic Programs Buildout				
New Program Faculty Start Up Costs	188,339	188,339	-	-
New Program Start Up Costs	50,000	-	-	50,000
Temporary Faculty Support	1,100,000	1,100,000		-
Program Development and Curricular Design	441,624	-	-	441,624
Faculty and Staff Recruitment	180,000	26,932	-	153,068
Student Recruitment and Outreach	882,431	596,198	148,594	286,233
Communications, Marketing, and Branding				
Rebranding/Marketing/Ad Campaign	2,415,235	790,943	378,050	1,246,242
Rebranding - Campus Signage	2,351,762	744,845	47,930	1,558,987
Infrastructure Projects				
Campus Master Plan	714,671	417,549	197,514	99,608
Academic Program Lab/Space Renovations	10,517,390	10,517,390	-	-
Equipment Modernization	3,829,087	1,146,229	1,077,603	1,605,255
2024-25 Additional Investments				
Field Trip Van Rentals	131,000	77,993	-	53,007
Foster 2 Acquisition Expenses	802,333	802,333	-	-
Research Vessel	500,000	500,000	-	-
Total One-Time Costs	24,103,872	16,908,751	1,701,097	5,494,024

► **2025-26 Budget Request**

- **2025-26 Ongoing Budget Request: \$3,729,000**
- **2025-26 One-Time Budget Request: \$69,570,000**

This budget request and spending plan align with our most recent Financial Planning Update and Budget Request. Consistent with prior iterations, the plan continues to emphasize strategic investments that strengthen the foundation for polytechnic success. Key areas of investment include faculty recruitment, information technology, student recruitment and retention, transition to year-round operations, professional development, and marketing and communications. These efforts are essential to ensuring the institutional capacity and expertise needed to sustain and expand polytechnic academic programs, with the next program launches anticipated by Fall 2026.

The spending plan represents a full spend-down of the remaining available polytechnic funding from the \$25 million ongoing allocation.

Additionally, this plan and request serves as an update to the May 2024 report, with a particular focus on the section titled “Capital and Infrastructure Projects Update – \$433 Million.” Significant progress continues across all polytechnic-supported infrastructure projects. The only change since the 2024 submission pertains to PLY105: Applied Research – Microgrid Lab (Energy Research and Sustainability Center, or ERSC).

Updated financial details for all projects are presented in the table included in the “Capital and Infrastructure Projects Update – \$433 Million” section, followed by a narrative summarizing revised directions and additional project updates. This report concludes with the University’s formal request for the Chancellor’s Office to allocate the remaining one-time capital funding totaling \$69,570,000.

Ongoing Expenditure Budget (Cumulative)	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
Academic Programs Buildout	15,252,000	18,468,000	18,468,000
Student Recruitment and Retention	3,585,000	3,585,000	3,585,000
Communications, Marketing, and Branding	1,162,000	1,625,000	1,625,000
Infrastructure	1,272,000	1,322,000	1,322,000
Total Ongoing Expenditures	21,271,000	25,000,000	25,000,000
<i>Annual Budget Request Amount</i>	<i>7,824,000</i>	<i>3,729,000</i>	-
Ongoing Expenditure Budget (Request by Year)	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
Academic Programs Buildout	3,860,000	3,216,000	-
Student Recruitment and Retention	1,925,000	-	-
Communications, Marketing, and Branding	1,072,000	463,000	-
Infrastructure	967,000	50,000	-
Total Ongoing Expenditures	7,824,000	3,729,000	-
<i>Cumulative Budget Request Amount</i>	<i>21,271,000</i>	<i>25,000,000</i>	<i>25,000,000</i>
One-Time Expenditures	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
Academic Programs Buildout			
New Program Faculty Start Up Costs	-	-	-
New Program Start Up Costs	50,000	50,000	-
Temporary Faculty Support	1,100,000	-	-
Program Development and Curricular Design	200,000	200,000	-
Faculty and Staff Recruitment	180,000	270,000	-
Student Recruitment and Outreach	450,000	250,000	-
Communications, Marketing, and Branding			
Rebranding/Marketing/Ad Campaign	860,000	65,000	-
Rebranding - Campus Signage	-	-	-
Infrastructure Projects			
Campus Master Plan (majority funded in prior years)	400,000	-	-
Academic Program Lab/Space Renovations	4,470,890	3,090,254	-
Equipment Modernization	1,000,000	1,400,427	-
2024-25 Additional Investments			
Field Trip Van Rentals	131,000		
Foster 2 Acquisition Expenses	802,333		
Research Vessel	500,000		
Total One-Time Costs	10,144,223	5,325,681	-

ACADEMIC PROGRAMS BUILDOUT UPDATE

In Fall 2023, the University welcomed [eight new bachelor's degree programs and one new master's degree program](#), and has hired over 20 new faculty to support these programs. One new bachelor's degree program launched in Fall 2024, one new bachelor's and one new master's program launched in 2025, another four bachelor's programs and one master's program will come online for Fall 2026, and more academic programs are planned for 2029.

One of the University's main areas of emphasis in new academic program offerings is health, to help address workforce needs and knowledge gaps in the community and across the state. A Health Task Force was established in Fall 2023 to inform future programmatic decisions. Following months of listening sessions, data gathering, workforce analysis, and engagement with campus, industry, and community college partners, the following health-related programs will launch in 2026: Community Health (BA) and Health & Medical Sciences (BS). By 2029, additional health degrees in Nursing (MSN) and Speech-Language Pathology (MS) will also be offered. Additional academic program offerings by 2026 include: Applied Anthropology (MA, 2025), Applied Humanities (BA, 2026), Biochemistry (BS, 2024), Media Arts (BFA, 2025), Critical Agriculture & Agroecology (BA, 2026), and STEM Education (MA, 2026). In all, eight new academic programs will launch in Phase II, which is double the required four.

The 2025-26 request includes hiring additional diverse faculty and staff positions and associated start-up costs to support growth in our newly launched academic programs and program development for the next round of academic programs launching by Fall 2026. In addition, prioritized investments have focused on building and space renovations like the new Health Education Hub, a collaboration between Cal Poly Humboldt and College of the Redwoods to expand the qualified healthcare workforce in the region and increase hands-on learning experiences. Additional investments have been made to procure a farm to support the Critical Agriculture & Agroecology major and to enhance basic needs on our campus. This farm allows best practice experiential learning through managing every step of planning, managing, harvesting, and selling/donating crops from the farm.

Since the polytechnic designation, seventeen new bachelor's and master's programs have been added, and three additional programs are actively being planned for and/or moving through the curricular process to launch by 2029. Two academic programs have been discontinued—Religious Studies (BA) and International Studies (BA)—while additional academic program discontinuations are being actively pursued in French & Francophone Studies (BA) and Economics (BA), which will be absorbed by Business and become a concentration. Efforts to simplify major offerings by eliminating concentrations have been robust in an effort to decrease time to completion and reduce instructional costs.

Polytechnic Programs Buildout			
Polytechnic Program	Year Launched	Polytechnic Program	Year Launched
Applied Fire Science & Management, BS	2023	Applied Anthropology, MA	2025
Cannabis Studies, BA	2023	Media Arts, BFA	2025
Data Science, BS	2023	Applied Humanities, BA	2026
Energy Systems Engineering, BS	2023	Critical Agriculture & Agroecology, BA	2026
Geospatial Information Science & Technology, BS	2023	Community Health, BA	2026
Marine Biology (elevation), BS	2023	Health & Medical Science, BS	2026
Mechanical Engineering, BS	2023	STEM Education, MA	2026
Software Engineering, BS	2023	Forestry, MF	2027
Engineering & Community Practice, MS	2023	Nursing, MSN	2029
Biochemistry (elevation), BS	2024	Speech Language Pathology, MS	2029

STUDENT RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION UPDATE

► Student Recruitment

For the fourth straight fall, student enrollment at Cal Poly Humboldt increased—an outcome that is the direct result of significant hard work and enhanced strategy. A few key highlights include:

- Fall 2025 headcount reached 6,276, an increase of almost 4% since last fall - we anticipate additional growth in the spring semester
- Since receiving our polytechnic designation, our headcount has increased by 537 students (+9.4%)
- Transfer enrollment increased 9.5% over the prior year and remains a significant part of our enrollment strategy moving forward
- We saw important strategic shifts within our new student population this fall:
 - 94% of new students enrolled full-time compared to 92% last year
 - 45% of our new students are first-generation, increasing from 42% in 2024
 - 44% of new students received Pell grants, up from 41%
 - 41% of new students identified as underrepresented minority students, up from 37% in 2024, with growth among both African American and Hispanic populations
- Overall, **our local student population increased by 6.1% over the last year, to 1,129**, but due to overall growth, it remained 18% of our total student body

The below table shows enrollment progress since our polytechnic transition began in 2022, as well as our internal enrollment targets over the next few years. Note that the 2021-2022 year, during which we received our poly designation, was a year in which our fall enrollment declined by more than 10% from the previous year. However, enrollment has grown steadily every semester since, and our headcount has increased by 537 (+9.4%) since then.

The green cells show our total target headcount from the upcoming 2026-27 academic year through 2035-36, while the likely annual resident FTES considers only those students that apply to the state-funded enrollment targets, which are being recalibrated for 2026-27 to 6,796. We anticipate being at 86% of that funded target by next year, and exceeding the target on our trajectory to more than 11,000 students by 2028-29.

	21-22	22-23	23-24	24-25	25-26	26-27	27-28	28-29	29-30	30-31	31-32	32-33	33-34	34-35	35-36
Actual/Target Headcount TOTAL (FTES driving)	5,739	5,858	5,976	6,043	6,276	6,837	7,518	8,246	8,917	9,503	10,007	10,467	10,904	11,300	11,674
% change from prior year	-10.8%	2%	2%	1%	3.9%	7.72%	9.96%	9.68%	8.14%	6.57%	5.30%	4.60%	4.18%	3.63%	3.31%
Annual FTES Target Year						26-27	27-28	28-29	29-30	30-31	31-32	32-33	33-34	34-35	35-36
Likely Annual Resident FTES (.854)						5,839	6,420	7,042	7,615	8,116	8,546	8,939	9,312	9,650	9,970
CSU Target						6,796	6,796	6,796	6,796	6,796	6,796	6,796	6,796	6,796	6,796
Annual Resident FTES															
Difference						-957	-376	246	819	1,320	1,750	2,143	2,516	2,854	3,174
% within target						86%	94%	104%	112%	119%	126%	132%	137%	142%	147%
3% recalibration Fall 25, estimated 5% Fall 26															

► Student Retention

Much of our enrollment strategy has focused on improving retention, reducing enrollment losses that drive additional need for new student growth. Retention and persistence are of course reliant on academic success, but also on creating a sense of community and belonging that keeps students engaged. A few highlights from this fall include:

- Our place-based learning communities are now supporting 93% of our first-year students.
- Continuing undergrad enrollment increased by 4.6% (+167)
- The first-time, full-time retention rate grew to 77.3% (up from 76% last year and 73.6% in Fall 2023)

Additionally, we have invested heavily in enhanced advising models, and implementation work is nearing completion to build out our current CRM, Slate, as an advising tool, enhancing our ability to engage current students. Significant work has been done to engage students through communications, increased programming, and enhanced student life offerings.

Moving forward, our focus is on refining strategies and processes that have proven successful over the past three years to maximize enrollment growth. Now that we have stabilized enrollment and infrastructure needs, we are focused on expanding markets with strong growth potential, including key majors/programs, geographic areas, students interested in known competitors, and transfer/graduate/adult students. We have launched innovative efforts such as Direct Admissions with seven area school districts; the Green & Gold Guarantee affordability initiative; a multi-year external enrollment partnership that focuses on market expansion, communications, and digital marketing; expansion of our Centers for Inclusive Academic & Career Excellence; and enhanced visit experiences.

Early indicators are showing a strong enrollment process for Fall 2026, as we head towards an annualized target headcount of 6,837 for the 26-27 academic year. Early application workshops, application submissions, digital inquiries and interactions, as well as visit activities, are all showing growth over the previous year.

COMMUNICATIONS, MARKETING, AND BRANDING UPDATE

We continue to make significant progress with our comprehensive marketing and rebranding effort. We are currently running an updated digital and print media campaign, which includes a new [brand video](#) series aimed at prospective students and families. We are collaborating with partners in Enrollment Management & Student Success on a long-term media campaign to enhance our overall brand awareness and student recruitment efforts. We launched our new homepage and are nearing completion on our web redesign project, which included reorganizing and transitioning all University websites to an updated content management system, resulting in annual savings of over \$37K for our annual hosting contract. In addition, we are currently updating our campus signage, both interior and exterior. The interior signage is produced in-house, and we have completed design work with an outside agency for the exterior wayfinding signage design. The installation timeline will be phased based on bid pricing for the construction.

PHYSICAL PLANNING AND HOUSING

► Campus Physical Plan

The University continues to make strides with our partners at SmithGroup on transforming our Campus Physical Plan (i.e., Facilities Master Plan). This process has led to amazing ideas for reimagining our university's physical place, identity, and culture, culminating in a draft physical plan and extensive engagement with the campus community. We are on schedule to conclude a final draft for Summer 2026. This will serve as the basis for our full California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) in the following 18 months. The intention is to provide a final plan and coordinated Environmental Impact Report (EIR) to the Board of Trustees in 2027.

Traditional physical plans present investment as a function of time. Our physical plan considers capacity constraints as the driver of investment. This allows our plan to be timeline-adaptable and to focus on our total population growth rather than yearly targets.

Included in our Plan are strategic milestones connected to anticipated student populations and their academic pursuit. Each of our academic departments was asked to participate in forecasting enrollment, in line with the strategic enrollment plan. This effort allows the university to have a complete strategic vision of what it will take to accommodate enrollment growth in academics and where we need to invest.

► Housing

A focus area for a rural campus such as Cal Poly Humboldt is housing. Through our study, we have refined our housing target to provide campus housing for 45% of our student headcount. Or in other words, 4,500 beds for 10,000 FTES.

Currently, Cal Poly Humboldt hosts 2,828 residential beds in various configurations. This total includes the recently completed Craftsman Student Housing (Hinarr Hu Moulik) and the removal of the campus apartments. Considering our current headcount of 6,276, we are right on target for 45%. Plans include additional housing with the Housing Dining Health project, which would increase our total inventory to 3,178 residential beds. Under our current goal of 45%, that would suggest capacity for about 7,000 FTES.

Cal Poly Humboldt currently provides 138 on-campus housing spaces that meet the definition of affordable housing. For the 2025–26 academic year, this translates to an average cost of approximately \$630 per month, compared to the campus-wide average of \$780 per month. Our ability to maintain affordable housing is largely due to the historic investment of state funds in housing projects, which significantly reduces program debt and helps keep costs under control.

CAPITAL AND INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS UPDATE - \$433 MILLION

Significant progress continues across all polytechnic supported infrastructure projects. The tables below outline the updated funding plan by project and the project commitments as of June 30, 2025. The first table also includes the remaining funds held by the CSU that Cal Poly Humboldt has requested for allocation.

Project ID	Project	Original Budget (2021 Planning)	Revised Budget	Received Funding (Includes Future BASBF Allocations)	Pending Poly CIP Funding Allocation
PLY100	Craftsman Student Housing	113,000,000	189,191,000	183,491,000	5,700,000
PLY101	Engineering & Tech Building	135,000,000	100,000,000	107,500,000	(7,500,000)
PLY102	Science Complex Renovations	36,300,000	43,683,000	2,550,000	41,133,000
PLY103	Applied Research-Eureka Lab*	7,500,000	-	1,037,400	(1,037,400)
PLY104	Applied Research-Coral Sea	6,000,000	8,000,000	6,000,000	2,000,000
PLY105	Applied Research-Microgrid Lab**	31,500,000	7,617,000	1,692,600	5,924,400
PLY106	Student Housing_Health_Dining	60,000,000	37,509,000	43,709,000	(6,200,000)
PLY107	Campus Apts Housing & Parking***	12,000,000	-	-	-
PLY108	Land Acquisitions 2022	11,700,000	6,000,000	11,700,000	(5,700,000)
PLY109	Expand Wireless Network	3,000,000	3,000,000	2,250,000	750,000
PLY110	Campus Science Network	3,500,000	3,500,000	1,000,000	2,500,000
PLY111	Research & Teaching Lab Updts	2,500,000	2,500,000	1,250,000	1,250,000
PLY112	Updt Faculty & Student Compfac	2,500,000	2,500,000	1,250,000	1,250,000
PLY113	Regional Connectivity	8,500,000	8,500,000	-	8,500,000
XPL288	Health Education Hub	-	21,000,000	-	21,000,000
Total Poly Capital & Infrastructure Spending		433,000,000	433,000,000	363,430,000	69,570,000

Project ID	Project	Revised Budget	Actuals as of 6/30/25	Encumbrances as of 6/30/25	Commitments through 6/30/25	Remaining Balance
PLY100	Craftsman Student Housing	189,191,000	152,813,119	36,377,881	189,191,000	-
PLY101	Engineering & Tech Building	100,000,000	37,450,688	58,428,904	95,879,592	4,120,408
PLY102	Science Complex Renovations	43,683,000	2,406,044	6,727,326	9,133,370	34,549,630
PLY103	Applied Research-Eureka Lab*	-	-	-	-	-
PLY104	Applied Research-Coral Sea	8,000,000	8,000,000	-	8,000,000	-
PLY105	Applied Research-Microgrid Lab**	7,617,000	2,698,713	480,809	3,179,522	4,437,478
PLY106	Student Housing_Health_Dining	37,509,000	10,289,367	12,138,297	22,427,664	15,081,336
PLY107	Campus Apts Housing & Parking***	-	-	-	-	-
PLY108	Land Acquisitions 2022	6,000,000	391,074	77,020	468,094	5,531,906
PLY109	Expand Wireless Network	3,000,000	419,367	6,374	425,741	2,574,259
PLY110	Campus Science Network	3,500,000	1,063,445	10,910	1,074,355	2,425,645
PLY111	Research & Teaching Lab Updts	2,500,000	1,486,890	-	1,486,890	1,013,110
PLY112	Updt Faculty & Student Compfac	2,500,000	2,276,449	5,212	2,281,661	218,339
PLY113	Regional Connectivity	8,500,000	413,862	498,910	912,772	7,587,228
XPL288	Health Education Hub	21,000,000	-	-	-	21,000,000
Total Poly Capital & Infrastructure Spending		433,000,000	219,709,017	114,751,644	334,460,661	98,539,339

Budget Act and/or Support Budget Funds (BASBF)

*PLY103 combined with PLY105

**PLY105 funding has been redeployed to PLY102, PLY106 and XPL288

***PLY107 combined with PLY106

► Craftsman Student Housing (Hinarr Hu Moulik)

The project budget and actual amounts have been updated to reflect the approved request to leverage an additional \$63.9 million (\$69.9 million less \$5.4 million acquisition cost) in poly funding initially planned for Housing, Dining & Health (HDH) to strengthen Housing’s overall financial position and alleviate the need for campus debt associated with this project. Total project costs of \$221,698,000 were funded by Polytech Transition Funding (\$189,191,000), Higher Education Student Housing Grant Program Funds (\$27,107,000), and State Revenue Bonds (\$5,400,000). The project was delivered under budget and at costs per bed significantly lower than elsewhere in the system, despite high regional costs of construction.

The new 964-student residence hall was delivered with partial occupancy in Fall 2025, increasing University-owned student housing by nearly 50%.



The project was delivered in two phases respectively to the two separate buildings. The East building, which can house about 600 students, was opened for student residents in August 2025. The West building was completed in December 2025, and we expect we will have notice of completion by April 2026, with anticipated first occupancy during the summer of 2026.

The new facility is located at the former Craftsman Mall site, less than 1 mile from campus. The project has apartment-style spaces and was designed to encourage students to build community and foster a sense of belonging. Features include green space, shared common areas, a cafe/market, hundreds of parking spaces, and EV charging stations. Reflecting Humboldt's long-standing commitment to environmental responsibility, the complex has high-efficiency irrigation, water-efficient plumbing, energy-efficient lighting and appliances, and durable exterior building materials. The project was the first facility completed as part of the University's polytechnic expansion.

As expected, the project has already demonstrated an impact on our local housing market. We have received feedback from our students and the rental community that application fees and other barriers to entry have been reduced or eliminated as a means to promote higher occupancy in privately held retail inventory. We view this a positive development that will help stabilize rent for the broader community in the long run.

► **Engineering & Technology Building**

The E&T Building will serve as the flagship building of the polytechnic transformation. It will be Humboldt's first major academic infrastructure project since 2008 and will emphasize student-centered learning and sustainable design.

The 74,000-square-foot, three-story structure, designed by AC Martin, is located at the northeast corner of B and 17th streets. Swinerton has completed about 65% of the building construction, and is on track for a Fall 2026 building opening with the first classes to be held in Spring 2027.

The building will provide much-needed lab and research spaces, faculty offices, and student support spaces that promote collaboration and hands-on learning. It will house the [School of Engineering](#) and its five high-demand bachelor's and master's programs: [Energy Systems Engineering](#), [Engineering & Community Practice](#), [Environmental Resources Engineering](#), [Environmental Systems](#), and [Mechanical Engineering](#). It will also accommodate the [Computer Science](#) and [Software Engineering](#) degree programs.



► Science Complex Renovations

The Project has successfully recruited a collaborative design-builder with Swinerton. The project is currently in program verification, with our next milestone of schematic design. The project's scope of work are prioritized projects of our full feasibility study of the science complex, which establishes a full capital plan that goes beyond our \$36.3 million in available funding. These funds are being deployed strategically to the buildings. Over the next two years, the funding will renovate the 5th floor of Science A to be lab-specific for chemistry (most intensive use), renovate specific labs on the 3rd and 4th floors in Science A for Physics, and renovate Science C for Biological Sciences, in addition to minor improvements in Alistair McCrone Hall for Engineering. This scope and funding allocation address the impacted STEM fields to enhance undergraduate throughput in our sciences, thereby strengthening our STEM degree programs.

As described previously, the project budget will be augmented by \$7,383,000 using reallocated funds from the ERSC project. The existing \$36,300,000 budget will be augmented to a total of \$43,683,000, bringing us within the budget estimate for our schematic design.

► Housing, Dining & Health Project

The project budget amount has been updated to reflect the additional \$64.2 million in poly funding initially planned for this project to support the Craftsman Student Housing project (Hinarr Hu Moulik). As a result, a smaller portion of this project will be funded with poly funding, and a larger amount of campus debt will be associated with this project instead.

Working with our design-build team, the project has also included renovation of Jenkins Hall to be purpose-built for the ceramics and sculpture programs. Jenkins is a catalyst project as the program was formally in the planned footprint of the Housing, Dining & Health Building (HDH). The project also included demolition of the former Campus Apartments to ensure the site can be utilized to its maximum extent and to sunset old housing buildings that are beyond their useful life. Both Jenkins Hall and demolition projects were completed in Fall 2025. The main HDH development project has not yet begun construction, but is in advanced design with our design-build team, Sundt and SCB Architects.

The HDH project will provide much-needed student housing on campus. The building will house up to 350 students and include a new central dining location and a new home for Student Health & Wellbeing Services—creating a community that supports student life with health and wellness.

The building, designed to be LEED Gold, will be a hub for student life, offering resources that center on justice, equity, holistic sustainability, and healthy living. Residence halls will include a mix of double and single units, along with social amenities and services that foster learning communities. The dining center will provide a new hub for campus dining in a part of campus that currently has limited access to food service, and features a cafe, a food pantry program, and a demonstration kitchen connected to student health education. The new student health center will offer counseling, psychological services, health education, and medical services.

While we continue work on this project with our design-build team, Humboldt is committed to the success of Hinarr Hu Moulik, enrollment growth, and the financial health of our housing program before we commit to Phase II of our design-build contract. We are anticipating a Fall 2029 opening for this project.

Estimated project budget is \$152,000,000, with \$37,509,000 from Cal Poly Funding and the remaining \$114,491,000 from System Revenue Bonds. To date, the Cal Poly Funds have supported three “make ready” projects, including companion funding at Jenkins Hall for the relocation of ceramics and sculpture (\$6,289,000); The demolition of Campus Apartments and the old ceramics and sculpture buildings (\$5,430,000); and parking lot relocation (\$1,000,000).



► **Applied Research - Coral Sea**

The new research vessel, the North Wind, has been delivered to Humboldt Bay and has completed all permitting and commissioning. Cal Poly Humboldt currently operates the vessel and includes it in our academic curriculum. Funding included an original estimates of \$6M. The final costs for the vessel came to \$8M. The additional \$2M was sourced from one time funds allocated to the Applied Research - Eureka Lab. Approval for use of these funds was in prior fiscal years.

► **Energy Research & Sustainability Center (Applied Research - Microgrid & Offshore Wind Lab)**

As we continue our transition to a polytechnic institution, it is both appropriate and necessary to regularly reassess our capital investment strategy. Escalating construction costs, shifting campus needs, and the evolving demands of polytechnic programming require us to focus our resources on projects that most directly advance our academic mission and ensure long-term institutional sustainability.

Following a comprehensive and strategic review of our capital portfolio, we have made the decision to withdraw the PLY105 Applied Research - Microgrid Lab from its current capital consideration. While the project remains aligned with our long-term vision, we must realign near-term investments to prioritize initiatives that deliver the greatest immediate academic impact and position the institution to meet critical programmatic needs.

The original allocation for PLY105 Applied Research - Microgrid Lab was \$37,000,000. The majority of these funds will be strategically reallocated to high-priority academic projects, including:

- \$7,383,000 to PLY102 Science Complex Renovations. This increases the existing \$36,300,000 budget to a total of \$43,683,000, bringing the project within the current schematic design estimate and ensuring the timely modernization of core science instructional and research spaces.
- \$1,000,000 to PLY106 Student Housing, Health & Dining. These funds will support required parking relocations associated with the project, helping maintain essential campus infrastructure while advancing student-focused facilities.
- \$21,000,000 to XPL288 Healthcare Education Hub. This reallocation increases the existing \$15,000,000 budget to a total of \$36,000,000, aligning the project with its schematic design estimate and accelerating development of high-demand healthcare workforce programs.

The remaining \$7,617,000 will support ADA improvements and completion of work already underway for PLY105, including final site demolition and rehabilitation of the project site into a contiguous parking area integrated with adjacent facilities.

Importantly, we remain committed to advancing applied energy research and hands-on learning opportunities. A scaled-down version of the Microgrid Lab will be delivered within an existing campus facility—the Swetman Makerspace. The Makerspace, currently serving the College of Natural Resources and Sciences, will relocate to the Engineering & Technology building upon its completion, allowing the space to be adapted to support a focused microgrid lab that continues to serve our applied research and polytechnic objectives in a more cost-effective manner.

This strategic reallocation ensures that our capital investments remain tightly aligned with polytechnic priorities, high-impact academic programming, and responsible stewardship of institutional resources.

► Health Education Hub

The Health Education Hub is an additional polytechnic transition project that was added to the 2025-2026 CSU Five-Year Major Capital Outlay Plan and will help fulfill CPH's mission of providing hands-on learning opportunities while serving the region. The Project is a collaboration between College of the Redwoods and Cal Poly Humboldt in both its program and funding. The project will use funds originally slated for the ERSC project.

The proposed Health Education Hub, developed in partnership with College of the Redwoods, will provide students with opportunities to master skills and prepare for thriving careers, while also offering community partners the chance to practice skills, learn new approaches to care delivery, and maintain competence. The following are Cal Poly Humboldt's and College of the Redwoods' project goals created to drive the Hub's design:

- As a regional education and simulation center, the facility should offer unique, state-of-the-art learning opportunities to meet the training needs of students, faculty, and community partners.
- The concept of Whole Health will provide a positive influence on personal well-being and will impact how we teach, how our students learn, and how we approach patient care.
- With a focus on flexibility and innovative technologies, the Hub will remain relevant into the future.
- The facility will prepare learners with a concentration on patient safety, interprofessional teamwork, and effective communication skills.
- The facility will focus on workforce training to help graduates succeed in the region.

The project will help to address Humboldt County's long-standing challenges in retaining healthcare professionals by providing the only dedicated health education hub in the county. Without a strong pipeline of locally trained healthcare workers, the region has had to rely heavily on professionals from outside the area, many of whom leave after a short period due to geographic isolation, limited career advancement opportunities, and a lack of community ties. This ongoing cycle exacerbates healthcare shortages and places a burden on existing providers.

This project will establish a new Health Education Hub program and will renovate the Stewart Building, a 19,543 ASF/33,695 GSF on a 1.58-acre parcel. The building is located at 1125 16th Street, Arcata, approximately 0.4 miles from the main campus, and is currently owned by Cal Poly Humboldt Foundation. The building was constructed in 1925 and needs significant investment to serve the proposed program needs. The Health Education Hub at the Stewart Building project will replace critical building infrastructure, address seismic safety, modernize fire/life safety systems, and bring the facility into full ADA compliance. The building currently has 10-year recurring and non-recurring renewal needs totaling more than \$25 million.

Funding: This project will be funded by Polytechnic Transition Funds (\$21,000,000) reallocated from the Energy Research and Sustainability Center project (which was able to be realized in an existing building on campus), and funding contributed from the College of the Redwoods (\$10,500,000). Additional funding comes from the Cal Poly Humboldt improvement fund's reserves (\$4,500,000). This gives the project a total budget of \$36,000,000, which aligns with our most recent Schematic Design estimate. The project will help strengthen an ongoing partnership with College of the Redwoods and serve the needs of the Cal Poly Humboldt student body and region.

► Land Acquisitions

Land acquisitions remain as initially planned. The following properties have been purchased:

- “Craftsman Properties”, 10 total parcels, Arcata CA Total Value: \$5,400,000
- “Campus Store”, 697 9th Street, Arcata CA Total Value: \$1,825,000

The following property purchases are still pending approval from the California Department of General Services (DGS):

- “Stewart Building”, 1125 16th Street, Arcata CA Total Value: \$2,800,000
- “Foster 2”, 2160 Foster, Arcata CA Total Value: \$1,440,000

► IT Infrastructure Projects

Considerable progress has been made on our campus IT infrastructure projects. The Science Network has been built and is online. New equipment installations for faculty and student computing facilities have been completed. In addition, Wireless Access points continue to be installed on campus.

On a broader scale, we received approval for our refined regional connectivity plan. Construction is underway on the D299 portion of the broadband expansion. Contracts through CENIC to connect outlying campus buildings are fully executed, and construction work is being scheduled.

During 2025-26, we expect to encumber or spend nearly \$4 million dollars of the remaining funds in PLY113, Regionally Connectivity.

SUMMARY

The investments in Cal Poly Humboldt are yielding a transformation of the university and the region. Applications are on the rise, new programs have been successfully launched, construction is well underway, stewardship for the funding is consistent with the original intentions and state policies, and the region is responding favorably. These outcomes confirm the wisdom of this investment in Cal Poly Humboldt as the economic and workforce development catalyst for Northern California. The collective efforts, as a nationally recognized university and regional development partner, will continue for decades to come, with our current efforts setting the foundation for growth and development in the region.

The [Prospectus](#) is a great resource with extensive details on our academic and infrastructure planning efforts. We appreciate your consideration of this request.

Again, thank you and your staff for continued support of Cal Poly Humboldt.

► Reference Documents:

[May 2024 Financial Planning Update and Budget Request](#)

[June 2023 CO Poly Financial Update and Year 3 Request](#)

[July 2023 Response from S. Relyea](#)

[July 2022 CO Poly Financial Update](#)

[January 2022 CO Poly Financial Update and Year 2 Request](#)

[Year 1 Request](#)

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