RUSS NASH NAMED ORFALEA COLLEGE OF BUSINESS HONORED ALUMNUS

Russ Nash (B.S., Business Administration, 1982) has been named the 2015 Orfalea College of Business Honored Alumnus. After graduating Cal Poly, Nash soon realized his passion for entrepreneurship, starting everything from a financial planning firm to a smoothie shop. Today he and his brother, fellow Cal Poly alumnus Steven (B.S., Business Administration, 1985), own and operate Professional Education Services, a company that offers innovative continuing education programs in the accounting and real estate industries.

Along the way, Nash has continued to make a big impact on campus by supporting Cal Poly’s Center for Innovation & Entrepreneurship (CIE). From the program’s early days, he has taken a hands-on role in mentoring student teams as they develop their ventures, several of which have launched successful businesses.

“Being around these fired-up, business-minded young people is really inspiring,” says Nash of his work with student startups in the CIE. “I have walked in their shoes, so I’m happy to spread the knowledge to those who can learn from it now.”

In addition to mentorship, Nash has provided critical financial support to the CIE’s student-centered programs. Cal Poly recently debuted the Nash Family Entrepreneurship Lab, the university’s on-campus incubator and workspace for startups. Today the Nash family also supports a student scholarship in the Accounting area of the Orfalea College of Business.

NEXT STEP Check out a Q&A with Nash about what keeps him connected to Cal Poly 30 years after graduating at bit.ly/OrfaleaHonoredAlumni.

PROVOST AWARD

Professor Jonathan York Honored with Provost’s Award for Philanthropy

Entrepreneurship Professor Jonathan York was honored with the Provost’s Award for Philanthropic Leadership during Cal Poly’s annual Fall Conference event. The award recognized York’s leadership of the Center for Innovation & Entrepreneurship, which he co-founded with Professor Lou Tournatzky in 2010.

York has been instrumental in not only growing a host of student-centered programs on and off campus, but also in building external support for the CIE among alumni, industry partners, and friends in its Founders’ Circle.

His vision and hard work have helped the center raise more than $1.5 million and secure critical support and connections that will help ensure a sustainable future for its programs.

York was honored at Cal Poly’s annual Fall Conference event by Provost Kathleen Enz Finken and President Jeffrey D. Armstrong.