

# STUDENT SPOTLIGHT



**CAL POLY**  
College of Engineering



## 5 Questions with **Environmental Engineering** Graduate Student **Corinne Watson**

**Hometown: Colorado Springs, Colorado**

### **What was your first engineering project?**

My earliest engineering project was my 7th-grade science fair. I am originally from Colorado Springs, Colorado. While I was in middle school, several large wildfires affected Colorado Springs and the surrounding areas. When it came time to choose a project for the middle school science fair, I was inspired to dig deeper into the effects of wildfires on mudslides and flooding. For my experiment, I designed a physical model of a mountain slope and tested different tree root depths and spacing to determine their effect on downstream flooding conditions.

### **Why did you choose to attend Cal Poly, and what is the path that brought you here?**

I chose Cal Poly for environmental engineering because of the university's emphasis on Learn by Doing. As I examined potential colleges, I wanted an education that would best prepare me for a career addressing real-world environmental challenges. Furthermore, Cal Poly's close-knit community and strong industry connections stood out to me. I knew it was a great place to grow as a student and as an environmental engineer.

### **What are your hobbies?**

I like to bake, decorate cakes and cook! I also enjoy running, weightlifting, backpacking and going on nature adventures.

### **What is your favorite place in San Luis Obispo County and why?**

My favorite place in San Luis Obispo County is the jetty at Morro Rock. I love watching the large winter waves!

### **Are you part of any extracurriculars on or off campus?**

I represented Cal Poly in the Environmental Competition International (ECI) at the 2023 AWMA conference in Orlando, Florida. ECI is a mock consulting competition where engineering students are tasked with solving a real-world engineering problem and required to build a solution framework incorporating technology and policy. I assisted in a supportive leadership role alongside our project manager and two environmental engineering students, contributing to Cal Poly's consecutive first-place award achievement!

During my time at Cal Poly, I have also served on the Civil and Environmental Engineering Hiring Panel as a student research representative. I have also served on the College of Engineering Planning Panel to provide student feedback on ethics and best practices.

Currently, I am an intern with Water Systems Consulting (WSC), and I am set to begin full-time this summer. At WSC, we plan, design and build water infrastructure. The work we do is incredibly inspiring, and I am so thankful for the amazing group of engineers I get to learn from.