

# FACULTY SPOTLIGHT

## 5 Questions with Dr. Jiun-Yao Cheng

Assistant Professor, Civil and Environmental Engineering

### **What brought you to Cal Poly College of Engineering?**

When I was searching for a faculty position, Cal Poly's philosophy of Learn by Doing immediately resonated with me, as it reflects my own core belief in teaching and learning. I was especially drawn to the college's strong connections with industry partners, since I believe meaningful conversations among researchers, educators, students and practitioners are essential to advancing the field. I was impressed by the enthusiasm and warmth of both faculty and students, which made me feel that Cal Poly is the right place to work and live. Additionally, the college's emphasis on integrating AI and emerging technologies into engineering education aligns closely with my research interests.

### **What is your favorite part of your job?**

I love brainstorming with colleagues and students to solve real-world problems. To me, these collaborations are an ongoing process of Learn by Doing, which makes my work both meaningful and enjoyable.

### **How does engineering apply to your daily life?**

Engineering shapes every aspect of daily life, from the smallest details in our homes and on the roads to large-scale projects that impact communities. I often reflect on the design thinking behind these works and appreciate how engineers strive to make our world safer and more convenient.

### **What is the most helpful advice you've received?**

"Whatever role you play, embody it fully." This reminds me to adapt, give my best in every situation and treat each responsibility as if it matters.

### **How do you encourage engineering students to make an impact on the community?**

I encourage students to trust themselves and embrace innovation and different ideas. I believe every individual has the potential to make a meaningful impact. What's most important is recognizing that potential, taking actions and remaining open to new possibilities.



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