A message from Tresa Pollock,
Interim Dean of the College of Engineering

Dear College of Engineering (COE) Family,

This month, the nation celebrates Women’s History Month, a recognition that started in 1987 when the U.S. Congress passed a resolution to honor the contributions women have made to the nation and to recognize their specific achievements in a variety of fields, including engineering.

Accordingly, the College of Engineering (COE) has created a web page to honor a group of impressive female and female-identifying engineers. The collection includes the 31 remarkable women who are faculty members in the college, as well as pioneering women who made tremendous contributions to the field in the past and others who continue to make them today.

Currently, women make up 27 percent of graduate students and 19 percent of undergraduates in the COE, a jump of 7 percent and 4 percent, respectively, since 2013. Nineteen percent of the college’s faculty members are women, a 5 percent increase since 2013. Our numbers show that we are moving in the right direction, but we still have a long way to go to achieve proportionate representation of women.

As the first woman to serve as dean in the college’s 56-year history, I can’t stress enough to our female students, faculty members, and staff the importance of being confident in your journey. You’ve earned your seat at the table. Be bold, ask questions, participate in the discussion, push your boundaries, and never settle. You belong here. We belong here.

Best of luck to all of our students during finals week, and I hope you enjoy your well-deserved spring break.

With gratitude,

Tresa Pollock, Interim Dean and Alcoa Professor of Materials
UC Santa Barbara College of Engineering

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