

The California Geotechnical Engineering Association Student Chapter (CalGeo)

Funding Proposal
2026-2027



SDSU

San Diego State
University



San Diego State
University

SDSU Geowall Team

Department of Civil, Construction, & Environmental Engineering
5500 Campanile Drive, San Diego, CA 92182-1324



The ASCE Geo-Wall competition is an annual event that takes place on the regional and national level. San Diego State University's Geo-Wall Team has competed regionally for years, ranking 2nd place at the Pacific Southwest Symposium (PSWS) in 2026 and among the top 6 at the national competition. We have also competed on the national stage for four consecutive years. This year, the regional competition will be at PSWS, hosted by California Baptist University in Riverside. The national competition will be held at Geo-Congress 2027 at ASCE 2027 in Philadelphia.

The basis of the Geo-Wall competition is to design and build a model mechanically stabilized earth (MSE) retaining wall, composed entirely of Kraft paper, in an 18"x18"x26" wooden box with sandy backfill. This year, the competition involves designing a mock wrapped face MSE wall that is to retain 4.6 ft³ of soil with laterally loaded piles, an area load right behind the piles, and a dynamic lateral load.

During the entire school year, the team met twice a week to work on the GeoWall competition. During our meetings we analyzed the effects of the backfill, induced loads on the wall, designed the most efficient reinforcement layout, constructed, and tested the wall.

To improve our Geowall program and our standing on the national level, we are asking for your financial support. Your support funding will be used for materials, tools, testing equipment, conference fees, and travel expenses. Please see our attached budget for more details. We are also seeking advice from professionals to help improve our wall design. For this year, we are a four-tiered sponsorship program with varying levels of benefits. Please see the attached Sponsorship Package for more details. All forms of donations and advices are welcome!

In appreciation of your support, we shall provide valuable promotional opportunities for your company at all academic competitions and professional events for ASCE. All donations are tax-deductible. Please see the following pages for the sponsorship form.

If you would like to see the details of our design progress, design paper, and/or contribute to the design with any recommendations, feel free to contact us at the email or number below. Thank you for your time and consideration. Go Aztecs!

Respectfully,

Christian Guerra

SDSU CalGeo President

sdsu.calgeo@gmail.com

Christian Guerra (619) 602-2330 / christianguerra2242@gmail.com



San Diego State
University



Objective

The San Diego State University GeoWall Team values your sponsorship consideration. Members involved with GeoWall are driven and passionate students that have a further interest in developing their knowledge about MSE retaining walls. They also have the opportunity to learn about other Geotechnical Engineering topics. Our team serves as an outlet to students who want to learn more about the Geotechnical Engineering field. Our team has recurring meetings where members get the chance to participate on improving the design and construction of the MSE Retaining Wall. Our members learn the theory behind Geowall, while also getting hands on experience. CalGeo also holds monthly meetings with professionals to talk about their experience in the geotechnical engineering field. These meetings are meant to help students learn about what geotechnical engineering is outside of their classes, and give them opportunities to network with professionals that they do not see at school. This year, our main goal is to win the regional competition Pacific Southwest Symposium (PSWS) and national competition at ASCE 2027. At the competitions, we will assemble, test, and present our wall design to a judicial panel consisting of professional Geotechnical and Civil Engineers. Your sponsorship will provide each GeoWall member the opportunity to complete our learning and competition goals, as well as enhance their aspirations of becoming a Geotechnical Engineer.

Our main objective is to allow our team to attend ASCE '27 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Sponsorship Benefits

Organization Promotion

The ASCE 2027 conference is attended by professionals, educators, and students throughout the nation with an interest in Geotechnical Engineering. The GeoWall competition will take place during the conference where hundreds of young engineering students, as well as professionals, will be able to witness us compete.



San Diego State
University

Meet the CalGeo Board



Christian Guerra, President

Graduate Student



Hi! I'm Christian Guerra, and I'm this year's President for CalGeo. I'm currently a graduate student pursuing an Environmental Engineering masters with a bachelors in Environmental Engineering. My curiosity in the field led me to the GeoWall team, where I had the opportunity to explore the mechanisms that govern the behavior of MSE retaining walls. The field of research allowed me to grow my passion for soil mechanics and all that geotechnical engineering has to offer. My goals are to continue fostering growth within our club and to qualify for ASCE '27 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. I'm grateful for the opportunity to lead and learn alongside such an amazing team. Go Aztecs!

Alek Zhang, Treasurer

Senior Year



Hi, my name is Alek Zhang and I'm this year's treasurer for CalGeo. I'm a fourth year Civil Engineer major with an interest in Geotechnical Engineering. I gained an interest in Geotechnical Engineering through my research opportunities under Dr. Marta Miletic. This opportunity, along with GeoWall, have helped me gain interests in Geotechnical Engineering. Having the opportunity to help increase interest in a topic I am passionate about is important to my reason for taking on this role. My goals as treasurer stem from this passion, as I wish to grow our membership, teach about geotechnical engineering, and attend multiple different conferences to continue learning as a team.



Catherine Nguyen, Outreach Officer

Senior Year

Hello! My name is Catherine Nguyen and I am this year's CalGeo Outreach Officer. I am a fourth year Civil Engineering major at San Diego State University. I first joined GeoWall during my second year of college in order to explore all the different disciplines civil engineering had to offer. I ended up really appreciating how hands on GeoWall was and decided to also join the CalGeo board. I currently intern at Caltrans as a Student Assistant and am working toward attaining my FE by the summer. Geowall has not only been a great experience for me to learn more about engineering, but help me find what I am passionate about.



Oscar Montiel, Secretary

Senior Year

Hello! My name is Oscar Montiel and I am this year's secretary. I am a fourth year Civil Engineering major at San Diego State University. I first joined GeoWall during my third year of college to explore more about the unique disciplines within Civil Engineering. I enjoyed the learning aspect of GeoWall and continued to show my interest in Geotechnical Engineering by joining the CalGeo board. Geowall has helped me learn more about geotechnical engineering and about the design processes that go into projects.



Peyton Paragas, Vice President

Sophmore Year

Hi! I'm Peyton Paragas and I am the vice president for CalGeo this year. I am a second-year Civil Engineering Major. Having the great opportunity to compete in the Pacific Southwest Symposium last year, I was able to get a grasp of what it is like to become a Geotechnical Engineer. Since then, my interest in the field has flourished and eventually led me to take on the vice president role. I look forward to the opportunity to be able to take part in the upcoming events this year and help expand interest in Geotechnical Engineering.



San Diego State
University



Team Budget

As part of our team success and achievements, it is crucial that we raise enough funds in order to support the participation, travel needs, and material's supplies for this year's regional and national competitions. The conference fees are based on previous year's fees.

GeoWall Budget 26-27

Materials & Equipments	
Plywood	350
sand	100
kraft paper	30
poster board	60
pvc pipe	20
screws/washers/nuts	100
paint/brushes	100
travel case	300
organizers	100
locks/latches/handles	150
tables	150
circular saw/ blade/ battery	300
block planes/ sandpaper	40
power drill/ drill bit set	200
screwdrivers/ allen wrenches	30
steel rulers/ t-square	40
safety equipment (glasses, masks, gloves, knee pads)	230
cutting mats	50
tarps	30
rubber mallet set	20
x-acto knives/ blade refills	10
Totals:	2410

National Competition		
GeoCongress Registration Fee		3,750
Airfare		3,800
Hotel		5,000
	Total:	12,550



San Diego State
University



Sponsorship Packages

Sponsorship Level:	Green (\$100-250)	Black (\$250-749)	Red (\$750-1,249)	Gold \$1250 +
Company logo on social media post & technical presentation.	✓	✓	✓	✓
Company logo on sandbox (4" x 4") and team competition shirts		✓		
Company logo on sandbox (6" x 6") and team competition shirts			✓	
Company logo on sandbox (8" x 8") and team competition shirts				✓

For more information on payment options
to the SDSU CalGeo chapter, please
email **sdsu.calgeo@gmail.com** Thank
you!

Meet our Advisors

Dr. Marta Miletić, Faculty Advisor



Dr. Marta Miletić is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Civil, Construction, and Environmental Engineering at San Diego State University (SDSU). She completed her Ph.D. program in Geotechnical Engineering at Kansas State University in 2016, after which she has been an Assistant Professor at Auburn University for two years. Dr. Miletić graduated with a Master of Science, and Bachelor of Science degrees in Civil Engineering from the University of Zagreb, Croatia in 2011, and 2009, respectively. Furthermore, she worked in engineering practice for one year prior to starting her Ph.D. She was employed by “Dalekovod Projekt d.o.o.” (Croatia), a company that has for several years been engaged in research and development projects related to power transmission and the use of renewable energy. In addition to her research and teaching experience, Dr. Miletić possesses willingness and enthusiasm to awaken the desire to pursue engineering careers in all students including those that remain underrepresented in STEM fields.

Dr. Julio Valdes, Faculty Advisor



Dr. Julio Valdes is a Senate Distinguished Professor in the Department of Civil, Construction, and Environmental Engineering at San Diego State University. He earned BS, MS and PhD degrees at Georgia Tech, all in Civil and Environmental Engineering, and the latter two with emphasis on Geotechnical Engineering. He joined the SDSU faculty in 2002, and has advised the ASCE GeoWall group since then. Dr. Valdes’ research centers on the identification and understanding of the physical, chemical, and biological mechanisms that govern the behavior of particulate materials, and on the use of such understanding to develop innovative techniques for the evaluation and control of particulate media systems.



San Diego State
University

Meet our Advisors



Emerson Revolorio, P.E.

Industry Advisor



Hello, I'm Emerson and I have the honor of being the industry advisor for the SDSU Geowall team. When I was a Civil Engineering student at SDSU, being part of the Geowall team not only introduced me to geotechnical engineering, but also inspired me to pursue my master's degree at UCLA. Even today, the experience I gained while in Geowall has supported me in numerous dam and transportation infrastructure projects throughout California both at my current position as a Senior Civil Engineer at GEI Inc and at my previous professional positions. Since graduating from SDSU in 2015, I have been an advisor for the Geowall team. My goals as an advisor are to introduce geotechnical engineering to students at a younger age, prepare students for their future industry positions, promote SDSU engineering, and most importantly, make students passionate about their work! I'm proud to be part of this group of impressive students and I hope you will choose to support them. Go Aztecs!

Danyel Ortega, P.E.

Industry Advisor



Hi, I'm Danyel and I'm an advisor for the Geowall team. I started on the team in 2016 and was captain 2017-2018 and stayed active on the team in 2019 as an advisor and have been an advisor ever since. My goals as an advisor are to expose students to general engineering principles, promote SDSU engineering, and fuel the students' drive! Honored to be an advisor for this team and hope you decide to support this amazing group of students. Go Aztecs!