To herald the 2001-02 academic year, Cal Poly will hold one of its main Centennial events, the Founders Celebration, on Sept. 27-28.

Recognizing 100 years of teaching, research, and public service to California and the nation, the event will open with an examination of the distinctive mission and future of polytechnic education and end with an all-campus, “turn-of-the-century” picnic. On the evening of Sept. 27, Cal Poly President Warren J. Baker will join a panel of distinguished guests for a Founders Colloquium to discuss the challenges of preparing citizens and a diverse work force for an increasingly science- and technology-based economy.

The colloquium’s panel will also include David Baltimore, a Nobel Prize-winning biologist and president of Caltech; Gary Bloom (CSC ’82), chief executive officer, Veritas; Rita Colwell, director, National Science Foundation; Richard DeMillo, chief technology officer, Hewlett-Packard; and John Brooks Slaughter, chief executive officer, National Action Council for Minorities in Engineering, president emeritus of Occidental College.

On the morning of Sept. 28, the university will begin an outdoor Founders Convocation with an academic procession of visiting college and university presidents and delegates, the Cal Poly faculty, and Cal Poly class representatives. Caltech President Baltimore will deliver the convocation’s keynote address. Honorary doctor of science (Sc.D.) degrees will be conferred upon Baltimore, Colwell, and Slaughter in recognition of their achievements and careers.

In the afternoon, the entire campus community will have a chance to celebrate Cal Poly’s past 100 years and welcome the university’s second century. Festivities will spotlight two turns of the century: Cal Poly’s founding year of 1901 and this year’s turn to the 21st century, which launches the university into a new millennium.

To celebrate the university’s Centennial, various departments will sponsor Chautauqua-like presentations and entertainment reminiscent of the public celebrations that were a vital part of the intellectual and social fabric of the late 19th century.

“This day of celebration will be memorable and fun for the entire university community,” said Provost Paul Zingg. “It will be a day when Cal Poly steps back from its day-to-day activities and enjoys a celebratory moment as a community with a proud past and a bright future.”

Students, faculty members, and staff members, as well as alumni and friends everywhere, are invited to mark their calendars and come join in this first-of-its-kind event celebrating a milestone in the university’s history. Classes will be canceled Sept. 28 to allow the entire campus community to participate.