News

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Building a Strong Science, Engineering Workforce Topic of Oct. 22 Talk at Cal Poly

SAN LUIS OBISPO – Award-winning chemist and professor Geraldine Richmond will present "Battling Bias and Barriers, Necessary Steps our Institutions Must Take to Assure a Strong Science and Engineering Workforce," on Wednesday, Oct. 22, from noon to 1 p.m. in Room 112 in the Business Building at Cal Poly.

Using the framework of the 2006 National Academy of Science report on advancing gender equity in the sciences, University of Oregon Professor Richmond will discuss how institutions can most effectively support and sustain the participation of women in science and engineering fields.

"As the global economy becomes ever more technological, it is important that we recruit and retain science and engineering talent from all sectors of our population," Richmond said. In the United States, women are increasingly majoring in science and engineering fields. However, at the university level, women remain persistently underrepresented and undervalued.

Richmond earned a Ph.D. in chemical physics from UC Berkeley and is the Richard M. and Patricia H. Noyes Professor in the Department of Chemistry at the University of Oregon. An internationally recognized expert in nonlinear optical spectroscopy, Richmond has more than 160 publications to her credit. Her more recent recognitions include the Spiers Medal of the Royal Society of Chemistry, a Guggenheim Fellowship, and the Bomem-Michelson Award.

Richmond is also founder and chair of the Committee on the Advancement of Women Chemists (COACh), which has helped more than 3,000 members of the higher education community benefit from professional training and networking workshops.

Admission to the presentation is free and open to the public. It is sponsored by Cal Poly's Provost Office, the Women's Faculty Mentoring Program, Initiative for Diversity in STEM, Women's & Gender Studies Department, Chemistry and Biochemistry Department and the College of Science and Mathematics.

For more information, contact Nilgun Sungar, Women's Faculty Mentoring Program at 805-756-2851 or e-mail nsungar@calpoly.edu.

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