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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Cal Poly Partners with PIQE to Involve Parents in Education

San Luis Obispo - To better prepare elementary- and middle-school children for success in higher education, Cal Poly is partnering with the Parent Institute for Quality Education (PIQE).

The mission of this project is to bring schools, parents and the community together as equal partners in the education of under-served California children, according to Cornel Morton, Cal Poly vice president for student affairs.

Parents who enroll in the nine-week training program learn skills and techniques to improve their child's motivation and ability to attend college, according to David Valladolid, president and CEO of PIQE.

Class sessions are taught by professionally trained facilitators.

A $25,000 grant from The California State University's Chancellor's Office will be matched by PIQE to fund the project. The host schools will cover a portion of the program costs.

"Improving the state's K-12 schools is critical to the future of California and the Cal State system," CSU Chancellor Charles B. Reed explained, "since we expect many of these students to enroll at a CSU campus."

"Our partnership with PIQE is consistent with the university's goal of encouraging more California students to pursue study in science, technology, engineering and mathematics," said Cal Poly President Warren J. Baker.

Children of PIQE parents will receive a Cal Poly I.D. card, Morton said, to remind them that if they study hard and meet admission requirements, they have a good chance of attending the college of their choice.

Since its inception in 1987, PIQE has graduated over 350,000 parents and guardians. It has become a model for increasing parent involvement in K-12, where such participation has been difficult to achieve, Valladolid said.

About Cal Poly

Cal Poly is a nationally ranked, four-year, comprehensive public university located in San Luis Obispo, California. The emphasis of the university is a "learn by doing" educational experience for its more than 18,000 students. For more information, visit Cal Poly's Web site at www.calpoly.edu.

About PIQE

The Parent Institute for Quality Education (PIQE) is a statewide research-based and comprehensive parent involvement program in California. PIQE offers a nine-week series of classes on parent involvement, a four-month "Coaches" follow-up program and a six-hour teacher workshop on parent involvement. Since its founding in 1987, PIQE has graduated more than 350,000 from its nine-week classes, 75,000 from the follow-up program and more than 750 teachers from the six-hour workshops. PIQE's goal is to graduate 1 million parents by 2015. For more information visit www.piqe.org

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