How Diversity Affects Teaching, Learning to be Focus of Jan. 13 Talk at Cal Poly

SAN LUIS OBISPO -- Lloyd Elm, professor of Native American studies at Cornell University in Ithaca, New York, will present "How Diversity Affects Teaching and Learning" at a breakfast program at Cal Poly's Vista Grande Café at 7:30 a.m. Thursday, Jan. 13.

The presentation is part of the university's Provocative Perspectives series, which brings educators, authors and other innovative leaders to campus to stimulate discussion on a variety of issues.

Elm, a teacher for the past 34 years, is a nationally recognized expert and innovator in teaching Native American students.

Cal Poly Vice President for Student Affairs Cornel Morton said Elm is an outstanding educator and leader for change in higher education. "He has transformed the lives of his students," Morton said, "and we are delighted to bring him to our campus to talk with other colleagues and community members about the value of diversity in education."

As principal of Mounds Parks All Nations Magnet School in St. Paul, Minnesota, Elm rescued the school from academic decline with his Balanced Literacy Program. "We have to shift from teacher-centered learning to student-centered learning," Elm said. "We must allow students to see themselves within the process."

Elm is a member of the Onondaga Nation. He is a graduate of Haskell Institute, a federal Indian boarding school located in Lawrence, Kansas. He earned a bachelor's degree from Syracuse University and a master's and Ph.D. from Pennsylvania State University.

The morning program includes a full breakfast and is free to community members. Reservations are required and are limited. For reservations, call Liz Cofer at 756-0327 or e-mail her at lcofer@calpoly.edu.