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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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Nationally Known Educator To Speak at Cal Poly May 7  
on Rebuilding Public Education in California

SAN LUIS OBISPO -- Nationally known educator and author Linda Darling-Hammond will present “Rebuilding K-12 Education in California” on May 7 as the inaugural lecture in the newly endowed Hesser Lecture Series of Cal Poly’s University Center for Teacher Education.

Her talk, at 5 p.m. in the Business Building Rotunda (Room 213), is free and open to the public.

San Luis Obispo County Superintendent of Schools Julian Crocker will also comment on the topic with reference to local concerns.

George and Yola Hesser, alumni of Cal Poly’s University Center for Teacher Education, have pledged $250,000 to endow the Hesser Lecture Series at Cal Poly’s University Center for Teacher Education. The series will focus on major educational issues facing public schools and teacher education.

Darling-Hammond’s career has focused on school redesign, state education reform and issues of equity and access. She is the Charles E. Ducommun Professor of Education at Stanford University and principal investigator for the School Redesign Network and the Stanford Educational Leadership Institute.

She was the founding executive director of the National Commission for Teaching and America’s Future, a blue-ribbon panel whose 1996 report, “What Matters Most: Teaching for America's Future,” catalyzed major policy changes across the United States to improve the quality of teacher education and teaching.

Among her more than 200 publications is “The Right to Learn: A Blueprint for Creating Schools that Work,” which received the American Educational Research Association’s Outstanding Book Award for 1998, and, with co-editor Gary Sykes, “Teaching as the Learning Profession,” which earned the National Staff Development Council’s Outstanding Book Award.
Darling-Hammond has served on numerous national boards, including the White House Advisory Panel's Resource Group for the National Education Goals and the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching.

The public is invited to a pre-lecture reception to honor Darling-Hammond and the Hessers at 4 p.m. in the Cotchett Education Building foyer. For more information and to make a reservation for the reception, call (805) 756-7380.

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