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Scholarship Named to Honor Cal Poly Agriculture Educator

SAN LUIS OBISPO - The California State Grange Association has named a scholarship in honor of recently retired Cal Poly Agricultural Education and Communication Professor Joe Sabol.

The Grange has offered at least two $500 scholarships annually at Cal Poly since 1957. This spring, Grange representatives requested the scholarship be renamed the California State Grange Scholarship in Honor of Professor Joe Sabol, who retired from Cal Poly's College of Agriculture in 2002.

Sabol taught in the Agricultural Education and Communication Department and served as director of outreach for the College of Agriculture. He was recognized with a 2002 Award of Distinction from UC Davis for his creative and positive approach and his dedication to students, and being instrumental in establishing a nationwide agricultural ambassador program that has generated student interest in agriculture on many campuses.

While at Cal Poly, Sabol also developed the National Agricultural Ambassadors Conference that annually brings together hundreds of students from 45 universities in 20 states to learn more about their chosen fields. He also helped build international agricultural education programs in Mexico, Nigeria and Costa Rica, and has delivered talks in Australia, New Zealand and England.

"We're very pleased at this recognition of Professor Sabol's incredible dedication to students," said William G. Boldt, Cal Poly's vice president for university advancement. "His infectious enthusiasm has benefited the College of Agriculture in innumerable ways."

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Cal Poly Scholarship Named After Retired Agriculture Professor