FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Cal Poly Honors Students, Faculty and Staff for Local Community Service

SAN LUIS OBISPO - Cal Poly honored seven faculty and staff members, 58 students and 10 student groups for their volunteer work at the ninth annual President's Community-Based Learning and Service Awards.

Cal Poly President Warren J. Baker created the awards program in 1994 to recognize students, faculty and staff who volunteer off campus in surrounding Central Coast communities. More than 120 students, faculty and staff attended the awards ceremony May 29 in Chumash Auditorium, where nationally known author Catherine Ryan Hyde gave a keynote address commending them for "paying it forward," consistent with theme of her novel "Pay it Forward," made into a movie with the same title in 2000.

Winners of the 2003 President's Community-Based Learning and Service Awards are:

For Innovation in Service: Student, Kolby Keiser, an aerospace engineering graduate student from San Luis Obispo; organization, Space to Create; faculty, Speech Communication Professor Ronda Beaman.

Keiser is a board member for the Children's Diabetic Network and has created projects that instruct children on how to cope with diabetes. Students Erin Hanley, a senior psychology major from Chico, Sharon Potter, a political science senior from San Jose, started Space to Create, a program that allows local homeless shelter and day center clients to create art, including works shown at the San Luis Obispo Art Center. Beaman's program sends communications students to visit seniors in assisted living centers.

Significant Contribution: Students, Kari Fisher and David Haskell; club, the Cal Poly Wildlife Club; faculty, Professors Kris Jankovitz and Lisa Nicholson. Fisher, an ecology and systematic biology senior from Chico, was honored for her work with San Luis Obispo County's Earth Day Coalition. She set up the popular children's activities for
the county's Earth Day celebration. Haskell, a speech communication senior from Menlo Park, volunteers as part of the Women's Empowerment Team and set up successful fund-raisers for local women's groups during the year, including benefit performances of "The Vagina Monologues," which raised $10,000.

The Cal Poly Wildlife Club was honored for its environmental education work, and student members volunteer work with local groups, including the Morro Bay Estuary Project, the Marine Mammal Rescue Center, the Monarch Alert Project, the U.S. Forest Service High Mountain Lookout Project, and Earth Day.

Professor Jankovitz was honored for her work developing community-based learning programs to promote health and combat drug abuse, and Professor Nicholson was honored for her work in setting up a community-based learning program to assess the nutrition status of local residents and provide them with nutrition plans.

Greek Community Contribution, honoring volunteer work by a fraternity or sorority: Alpha Phi, for the sorority's work in caring for the AIDS Living Memorial Grove in San Luis Obispo, and volunteer efforts with Special Olympics and the Multiple Sclerosis Society.

Emerging Service Leader: Student, Raymond Macareno; faculty and staff, Professor Camille O'Bryant, University Police Officer Lori Hashim. Macareno, a business administration senior from Farmersville, volunteers tutoring low-income students, has helped set up the Hispanic Business Student Association, and volunteers to educate men about prostate cancer. O'Bryant and Hashim created a "Rape Aggression Defense Program," which has so far trained 400 students, faculty and staff in self defense and defense awareness.

Community Partner Recognition: Linda Ozawa Olds and Joseph Vergara of Jamba Juice. The smoothie chain owners were recognized for their support of community service learning at Cal Poly, which included sponsorship of a program set up by nutrition majors including Yukie Nishinaga, a nutrition senior from Manhattan Beach. The San Luis Obispo Jamba Juice employees designed a set of lessons on nutrition, fruits and vegetables, and healthy eating which student volunteers teach in Central Coast elementary schools.

Lifelong Service Achievement: History Professor Robert Detweiler. Detweiler, a retired president of California State University Dominguez Hills who stepped in to serve as interim vice president of student affairs before the 2003 appointment of Vice President of Student Affairs Cornel Morton, has a long history of community service with nonprofit agencies in both Southern California and the Central Coast.

Also recognized at the ceremony were 35 AmeriCorps members, 18 student award nominees, two faculty award nominees, and members of three fraternities and sororities and five Student Community Services program
groups.

For more details on the Awards Ceremony, visit http://www.calpolynews.calpoly.edu/may03/president-winners.html.

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