



## News

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# June 28 Symposium at Cal Poly to Focus on Preparing Education Leaders to Improve Nation's STEM Instruction

SAN LUIS OBISPO – Cal Poly will host the third annual STEM Education Leadership Symposium on Monday, June 28. Attendees will examine the critical role leaders play in creating and sustaining excellent science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) education in K-20 schools.

Sponsored by Cal Poly's Educational Leadership and Administration Program (ELAP), the event will be held from 5-7:30 p.m. in the Business Rotunda (Building 03, Room 213). It is free and open to the general public. Refreshments will be provided.

"Leadership is necessary to support teachers and help them thrive," said Associate Professor James Gentilucci, coordinator of the ELAP program. "On average, 10 percent of new teachers leave the field each year within their first five years. That figure is worse in the STEM disciplines, where teachers are more likely to be recruited by industry."

The goal of the symposium, Gentilucci said, is to "help education leaders develop a firm grasp of issues specific to STEM." Examples include the need for more lab time in science classes and the fact that resource distribution needs to be higher in STEM disciplines because of the need for lab assistants and costlier equipment.

Keynote speakers at this year's symposium are: Kristina Bolts, assistant principal of Templeton Middle School and founder of the Templeton Biotechnology Institute, and John Keller, director of Cal Poly's Center for Excellence in Science and Mathematics Education (CESaME).

The symposium is part of a broader effort at Cal Poly to address the developing shortage of STEM teachers in California and the nation. In July 2009 the College of Education was renamed the School of Education and, along with the Liberal Studies Department, merged with the College of Science and Mathematics to better prepare math and science teachers as well as STEM-focused leaders for the state's schools.

For more details on the symposium, contact Gentilucci in Cal Poly's School of Education at 805-756-5373 or [igentilu@calpoly.edu](mailto:igentilu@calpoly.edu).

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