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California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo, California

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Cal Poly Announces Formation of Low-Income Taxpayer Service Provider Network

SAN LUIS OBISPO — Cal Poly's Orfalea College of Business announces the formation of the California Central Coast Tax Coalition, which extends the reach of the University's Low-Income Taxpayer Clinic (LITC) services.

A complement to the Orfalea College of Business's Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program, Cal Poly's LITC offers pro bono assistance on a case-by-case basis to qualified low-income taxpayers with sensitive tax-related issues requiring direct contact with the IRS or U.S. Tax Court. Assistance is available in both English and Spanish.

The California Central Coast Tax Coalition is an interconnected referral system that gives clients involved in tax controversies access to LITC's specialized services through a network of VITA programs in San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, Kern and Monterey counties. Qualified low-income taxpayers can now visit a coalition member's office and be put in contact with Cal Poly's LITC by phone, fax or Internet.

"The combination of expanded locations and services puts this coalition ahead of the curve in terms of accessibility of resources to those in need," said Rusty Roy, director of Cal Poly's LITC. "Together, the California Central Coast Tax Coalition has the ability to handle a wide variety of tax-related issues."

In addition to tax compliance and controversy assistance, the coalition provides federal tax education, outreach and direct consultation services to the elderly, low-income taxpayers and the Spanish-speaking community.

California Central Coast Tax Coalition members include AARP, Allan Hancock College, Community Action Partnership of San Luis Obispo County, the Internal Revenue Service, Mission Bank for ITINS, San Luis Obispo Deaconry VITA program of the El Camino Real, United Way of Northern Santa Barbara County and United Way of San Luis Obispo County.

Cal Poly's Low-Income Taxpayer Clinic is located on campus in the Orfalea College of Business and supports the university's Learn by Doing philosophy. The clinic is a Cal Poly-sponsored Service Learning Project, providing undergraduate and

graduate tax students, working under the direct supervision of faculty, the opportunity to represent clients involved in tax controversies before the IRS and U.S. Tax Court.

The Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program offers free tax-preparation assistance to individuals with annual incomes of $49,000 or less.

To contact Cal Poly's LITC, call 805-756-2951 or email *litc@calpoly.edu*.

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