FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Cal Poly Professor Shares Urban Planning Practices with China

SAN LUIS OBISPO - Cal Poly Professor William Siembieda was one of five California State University faculty members chosen to visit the People's Republic of China to provide training for public administrators there.

Siembieda, the head of Cal Poly's City and Regional Planning Department, shared his experience in urban planning with officials in the northeast province of Liaoning as part of a project sponsored by the CSU Chancellor's Office of Global Partnership Development.

Professor Siembieda's assignment took him to Northeastern University in Shenyang, Tongji University in Shanghai, and Peking University in Beijing.

"Our visit allowed the municipal officials and urban planners in China to better understand the scope of urban planning practices in the United States, with an emphasis on California and the western states," said Siembieda. "In China, the fundamental difference in urban planning is that the government owns all of the urban land. This ownership allows them to structure development to achieve long-term goals such as their public transportation systems, which are more advanced than those in the U.S."

Siembieda adds, "With China transforming from a government-directed economy to a market-influenced economy, it was of particular interest to them to know how we include citizens in the decision-making process related to land use, development issues and especially housing finance."

The April visit paves the way for future exchange programs between the CSU system and Chinese government. In coordination with his visit to China, Siembieda traveled to Japan to consult with senior staff at Kyoto University's leading disaster research institute on how to reduce Japan's vulnerability to disaster and to improve the country's post-disaster recovery strategies.

The Chancellor's Office selected Professor Siembieda as one of the five CSU faculty participants in the China trip for his international reputation as an expert in land use planning and land market policy, and his diverse experience in teaching and lecturing in many countries.

Siembieda joined Cal Poly's acclaimed College of Architecture and Environmental Design in 1998. He also serves the Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning as their academic liaison to Latin America.

Cal Poly's City and Regional Planning Department welcomes opportunities for community-university
cooperation in the form of work-study internships, scholarships and grants. For more information, call the college at (805) 756-7432.

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(Note to Editors and News Directors: A photo of Siembieda can be e-mailed to you by contacting Ray Ladd as noted at the top of this release.)