FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Cal Poly Agriculture Dean To Be Honored at Sacramento Sutter Club Oct. 22

SAN LUIS OBISPO - Cal Poly alumni and friends in Northern California are hosting a reception for David J. Wehner, new dean of the university's College of Agriculture, at 5:30 p.m. Oct. 22 at Sacramento's Sutter Club.

California Secretary of Food and Agriculture Bill Lyons will also be on hand to endorse Cal Poly's "growing partnership with California," according to Cal Poly alumnus Al Montna, a Sacramento area rice grower and chair of the College of Agriculture Advisory Council, who is helping organize the reception.

"We are honored to have Dean Wehner in Sacramento," Montna said. "He is committed to preparing students to be successful in a complex, ever-changing environment for agriculture."

George Soares, a Sacramento area attorney and Cal Poly graduate, noted that Wehner would announce the creation of an initiative to forge a closer collaboration between industry and the university on the vital role that government and policy play in agriculture.

"All of the evening's net proceeds are earmarked exclusively to fund this long overdue and excellent opportunity," said Soares.

Cal Poly alumni and friends are invited to the reception. Tickets cost $100.

Wehner, a University of Notre Dame graduate in chemistry, earned a master's degree and doctorate in agronomy from Penn State University. Before coming to Cal Poly in 1994 as head of the Environmental Horticultural Science Department, he taught in the Agronomy Department at the University of Maryland and at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign's Department of Horticulture.
Wehner, who is strongly committed to Cal Poly's "learn by doing" philosophy and tradition of hands-on education in agriculture, said, "We have a unique approach to education here, not just in the College of Agriculture, but in the entire university. A lot of it has to do with the relationships that develop between our faculty and students. I truly believe those lasting relationships develop here in a special way that's not found at any other university in the nation."

Wehner is also a member of the Crop Science Society of America, the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America, the American Society of Agronomy, and the National Academic Advising Association.

For more information call Cal Poly's College of Agriculture Advancement office at (805) 756-2933.

- 30 -

(NOTE TO EDITORS: For an electronic image of Wehner, please contact Jo Ann Lloyd at (805) 756-1511 or jlloyd@calpoly.edu.)