



May 18, 2011

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## **‘START YOUR ENGINES!’ Cal Poly Student Selected for NASCAR Mentoring Program**

SAN LUIS OBISPO – Cal Poly students are known for taking their hands-on learning experience and parlaying it into exciting real-world jobs. One career-minded student, Kimberly Saavedra, stepped up to the podium when she turned an internship with NASCAR, one of the most popular sports in the United States, into a full-time seasonal position with the stock car auto racing sanctioning body.

A second-year Recreation, Parks and Tourism Administration (RPTA) student, Saavedra is one of four students selected to participate in NASCAR’s Nationwide Diversity Mentorship program. Concentrating in sports management and special event planning, Saavedra also serves as co-president of the RPTA Club, is the Public Relations Student Committee lead for the Wildflower Triathlon Festival, and a reporter for the RPTA department newsletter. She is also a member of Rho Phi Lambda, the professional leisure and recreation honor society.

Saavedra starts her new position June 15 and will travel with the series as it tours the United States.

“As a young student hoping to pursue a career in sports, I learned an incredible amount from this introduction to the sport,” said Saavedra. “While the thought of traveling to seven states in nine weeks seems a bit daunting, I am ready for the challenge and the adventure of living on the road with NASCAR. I am blown away that my dream has become a reality.”



The NASCAR mentoring program was designed to expose students to the process of organizing, designing and implementing a NASCAR weekend event. The students were introduced to the NASCAR Foundation by Regional Director Bruce Kilgor and offered networking and educational opportunities, including the opportunity to connect with professionals about the work entailed in the racing series.

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