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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Cal Poly Announces Administrative Changes in Student Affairs Division

Vice President Cornel Morton to Lead Outreach and Student Recruitment Initiative

SAN LUIS OBISPO – Cornel Morton, Cal Poly’s vice president for student affairs since 2002, will take on a new assignment aimed at recruiting more first-generation students and broadening the university’s outreach to engage alumni and other stakeholders in those efforts.

Preston Allen, associate vice president for student affairs and executive director of university housing, will serve as interim vice president for student affairs until a national search for a permanent successor is concluded.

The changes are effective Jan.1, the university announced today.

“Cornel’s commitment to our students and their success has been extraordinary, and he has long been passionate about attracting and retaining first-generation students, particularly those from historically under-represented populations,” President Jeffrey D. Armstrong said in announcing the changes.

“Cornel understands our students’ needs and issues, and he knows exactly what prospective students are looking for when they choose a college. He is the right person to help us bring greater focus to our efforts to recruit well-qualified students while enriching the compositional diversity of our campus,” Armstrong said.

Morton, who will report directly to the president as senior adviser for outreach, said: “Given the social complexity of our global economy, our students will benefit from greater exposure to a more representative student body. Company CEOs and job recruiters have made it very clear to us that Cal Poly needs to provide a richer, more diverse experience in that regard. I’m looking forward to doing all I can to improve the Cal Poly experience for all students.”

Before joining Cal Poly, Morton served in senior student affairs leadership roles at other universities, including Kent State University, Virginia Tech and the University of Maryland. Just prior to coming to Cal Poly, Morton was associate vice president for student affairs at Kent State University.

Armstrong praised Allen, who has been with Cal Poly since 1993, as a talented administrator who has established Cal Poly’s high-quality, on-campus housing programs.

“Preston runs an outstanding housing program, one that provides rich educational and social programs for students,” Armstrong said. “These programs are vital to the student experience, and in that way Preston has a deep understanding of our students’ overall needs. He will be able to wisely move our student affairs programs forward while Cornel launches the new initiative. I’m grateful that Preston has agreed to this interim post so that we are able proceed on two fronts while we conduct a national search for a permanent successor.”

During Allen’s tenure, Cal Poly’s housing program has more than doubled with the 2003 opening of Cerro Vista and the 2008 opening of Poly Canyon Village. The two projects added 3,400 beds, bringing the university’s total on-campus housing capacity to more than 6,500.

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