



January 4, 2012

Contact: Amy Robbins
805-756-208; acrobbin@calpoly.edu

Cal Poly School of Education Sponsoring Free Jan. 23 Screening of ‘American Teacher’

SAN LUIS OBISPO -- Cal Poly’s School of Education is sponsoring a free screening of “American Teacher” followed by a panel discussion with local education leaders. The event begins at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, Jan. 23, at the Fremont Theater in San Luis Obispo.

“American Teacher” is a new documentary by Oscar-winning filmmaker Vanessa Roth, narrated by actor and Oscar-winning screenwriter Matt Damon. It includes startling new data and interviews of national policy experts while following the lives and careers of four teachers in different areas of the country.

The film tells the story of the people on the front lines in the nation’s educational system: the 3.2 million teachers who spend every day in classrooms across the U.S. As the film points out, 1.8 million of them are expected to retire in the next 10 years.

A panel discussion on issues raised in the documentary will follow the screening and end at 8:30 p.m. Admission to the film and discussion is free; a \$5 cash donation is requested from those who can afford it.

The panelists for the post-screening discussion will be Julian Crocker, San Luis Obispo County superintendent of schools; Kim Ehrisman, an Oceano Elementary School teacher and Teacher Advancement Program (TAP) master teacher; Santa Maria High School Principal Joseph Domingues; and Santa Maria High School Assistant Principal Peter Flores.

###