



April 6, 2012

Contact: John Keller

805-756-2095; jmkeller@calpoly.edu

Cal Poly Partners Receive \$50,000 Grant for STEM Education Cooperative

SAN LUIS OBISPO – Cal Poly is a lead partner in a collaborative effort awarded \$50,000 to develop local approaches to strengthen teaching and learning in San Luis Obispo and Santa Barbara counties in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics).

The grant was awarded to Central Coast STEM Collaborative, a collective of educators, businesses and nonprofits dedicated to ensuring that students are college- and career-ready. Programs will serve more than 100,000 K-12 students and 65,000 college students in the two counties, with plans to expand to Ventura and Kern counties.

Primary CCSTEM partners include Cal Poly’s Center for Excellence in Science and Math Education (CESaME), UC Santa Barbara, the San Luis Obispo County Office of Education (SLOCOE), and the Endeavor Institute.

“Cal Poly, SLOCOE, UCSB, and Endeavour have a long history of sharing resources and conducting collaborative projects,” said CESaME Director John Keller. “We are excited about also involving local businesses and nonprofit organizations to collectively impact the preparation of students for future careers in STEM and to be STEM-literate citizens.”

The grant was awarded by the California STEM Learning Network (CSLNet). “The work carried out by the Central Coast STEM Collaborative will be essential in preparing students to meet our state’s expected demand for an additional 1 million STEM-trained workers,” said Chris Roe, CEO of CSLNet.

Preliminary goals include cultivating partnerships and initiatives to increase STEM literacy and career pathways in the region, and building infrastructure and financial support to sustain the collective efforts over time.

###