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Contact: Jonathan York
805-756-5188; jjork@calpoly.edu

May 14 Entrepreneurship Forum at Cal Poly to Showcase Student Entrepreneurs

SAN LUIS OBISPO – The Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship (CIE) will host the “Launch,” the last entrepreneurship forum of the academic year, from 4:30 to 7 p.m. Monday, May 14, in the Performing Arts Center Pavilion at Cal Poly.

The May Entrepreneurship Forum Event is part of a series hosted by the CIE. The forums provide an opportunity to meet student entrepreneurs and learn about their projects, network with local and national innovators and industry leaders, and learn more about the CIE’s activities. The event is free and open to the public. Refreshments will be served.

The event kicks off with Pitches, Exhibits and Networking (PEN), which provides an opportunity to learn about innovative student companies in the CIE’s Hatchery program. The Hatchery helps students form interdisciplinary teams, break down the silos that separate students and faculty in their individual areas of expertise, and supports student entrepreneur start-up endeavors.

After PEN, the CIE will introduce a new generation of young entrepreneurs and announce the new student founders of the SLO HotHouse Summer Accelerator. Complete information about the new companies will be available at the event.

The SLO HotHouse Summer Accelerator provides mentorship, support and infrastructure to help Cal Poly students launch innovation-driven companies in San Luis Obispo. It is funded by Cal Poly alumni and supported by the CIE’s Founders’ Circle.

The HotHouse program exposes students to a variety of successful businesspeople who want them to help them succeed, according to Russ Nash, CIE Founders’ Circle member and founder and managing partner of Professional Education Services. “It is best to learn as much as you can now,” Nash said, “because once you are on your own, it is hard to find knowledgeable people who are as willing and able to help you.”

Founders’ Circle members will also join graduates from last year’s pilot HotHouse program in a panel discussion on the trials and tribulations of launching a successful venture.

“Partner with the right people, build a thoughtful plan, be tenacious and persistent, be patient but course correct when the data tells you it is time to change, be passionate and have fun,” advises Gary Dillabough, CIE Founder’s Circle member and managing partner at the Westly Group. “My biggest learning boils down to a few simple principles, which I call the 5 P’s: people, plan, persistence, patience and passion.”

For more information and to register, visit <http://cie.calpoly.edu/>.

About the Cal Poly Center for Innovation & Entrepreneurship (CIE):

CIE opens the world of entrepreneurial opportunity to Cal Poly students and faculty members and promotes entrepreneurial activity, scholarship and dialogue across the university and throughout San Luis Obispo County.

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