Cal Poly Wins Energy Efficiency and Sustainability Best Practice Award

SAN LUIS OBISPO – Cal Poly recently was named a winner in the ninth annual Energy Efficiency and Sustainability Best Practice Awards competition.

The competition, presented by the California Higher Education Sustainability Conference, highlights achievements that California campuses have made through innovative and effective energy efficiency projects and sustainable operations. It showcases projects other campuses can use as models to achieve energy efficiency and sustainability goals.

Categories include New Construction or Existing Building Retrofit (Best Overall Sustainable Design, HVAC Design/Retrofit, and Lighting Design/Retrofit); Monitoring-Based Commissioning; Sustainable Operations (Water Efficiency, Site Water Quality, Innovative Waste Reduction, Student Energy Efficiency Program, Student Sustainability Program, Sustainable Food Service, Sustainability Innovation); and Communicating Sustainability.

Cal Poly won in the Communicating Sustainability category for four outreach initiatives: the Biennial Sustainability Report, Cal Poly Sustainability Website, Mr. Eco, and Polly the Polar Bear.

Mr. Eco is a rap superhero created by student intern Brett Edwards to get people to consider the impact their actions have on the environment. Student interns play the role of Polly the Polar Bear to raise awareness about the effect that global climate change has on polar bear habitat and populations. Polly often performs alongside Mr. Eco to motivate students to save water and energy.

“Cal Poly’s steadfast commitment to sustainability is evident throughout the campus,” said Larry Kelley, Cal Poly’s senior vice president for administration and finance. “Our efforts to communicate our achievements are an essential element of the university’s principles to engage and educate faculty, staff, students and the larger community to achieve lasting change.”

The winners of all categories are eligible for the Sustainability Champion award, to be announced at the Best Practice Awards Ceremony at the California Higher Education Sustainability Conference hosted by UC Santa Barbara in June.

Cal Poly has won 20 sustainability awards in a variety of categories since the competition was launched in 2005.

For more information and a complete list of this year’s award winners, visit www.cahigheredsustainability.org/awards/2013Winners.aspx.

Read Cal Poly’s most recent report on sustainability in its facilities and operations at: http://afd.calpoly.edu/sustainability/docs/Metrics/2012_SustainabilityReport.pdf

###