At a glittering black-tie gala on April 21, President Warren J. Baker publicly launched Cal Poly's $225 million fund-raising Centennial Campaign. The Campaign's theme is "Strengthening Our Advantage." Its funding goal is unprecedented in the 23-campus California State University system. To date more than $135 million has already been raised toward the total.

"For more than 100 years, Cal Poly's 'learn-by-doing' philosophy has defined how we teach, learn, and live as a polytechnic university community," said Baker. "More than 100,000 alumni and students have benefited from a Cal Poly education. Their leadership is increasing the state's and the nation's intellectual wealth and
fueling society’s economic engines. Secured by private support, Cal Poly’s advantage will be strengthened into the new century and beyond.”

The Centennial Campaign is a universitywide effort that focuses on raising private support for five areas:

**Supporting Students:**
$32 MILLION
Additional funds are needed to strengthen the scholarship endowment and increase learn-by-doing activities such as laboratory research, fieldwork, internships, cooperative education, and service learning.

**Supporting Faculty and Staff:**
$40 MILLION
Over the next 10 years, one-third of Cal Poly’s faculty members will retire. Private resources will help the university recruit and retain high-quality faculty and staff members as well as provide funds for professional development programs.

**Enhancing Learning:**
$32 MILLION
To continue to offer cutting-edge education, new academic programs will be developed. They include biomedical engineering, a marine science initiative, a business finance institute, an expanded viticulture program, and an applied research and learning center in architecture.

**Enhancing and Developing Campus Facilities:**
$81 MILLION
Private resources will be combined with state capital funds to develop new facilities and renovate current ones. Capital development priorities include a center for science and mathematics, engineering buildings, architecture studios, a music and theater teaching facility, and new business buildings.

**Developing State-of-the-Art Instructional Technology and Strengthening the Library:**
$40 MILLION
Campaign contributions will be invested in the renewal of instructional and applied research laboratories, equipment, computing technology, and multimedia instructional resources. The university’s Robert E. Kennedy Library will receive additional resources to keep pace with the increasing demand for global knowledge.

Volunteer efforts are extremely important to the success of the Centennial Campaign. Cal Poly alumni Robert J. Cardoza (AGB ’65) and R. James Considine Jr. (BUS ’68) are co-chairing the all-volunteer Centennial Campaign Support Committee, which comprises more than 15 alumni.
GALA DINNER SHINES FOR CENTENNIAL CAMPAIGN KICK-OFF

On the evening of April 21 Cal Poly President and Mrs. Warren J. Baker hosted more than 450 alumni and friends at a black-tie gala to kick off the university's Centennial Campaign. "In my more than two decades as president, I cannot remember a university event as exhilarating. It brought Cal Poly and its benefactors together for a common cause to support teaching and learning in a very special environment," Baker said.

Special guests included keynote speaker and NBC news anchor Tom Brokaw, U.S. Congresswoman Lois Capps, California State University Trustees Martha Fallgatter and Larry Gould (chair of the board), and student trustee and recent Cal Poly graduate Neel "Bubba" Murarka (CSC '00).

Centennial Campaign co-chairs Robert J. Cardoza (AGB '65) and R. James Considine Jr. (BUS '68) welcomed the attendees. Cal Poly alumnus Robert L. "Hoot" Gibson (AERO '69), former astronaut and commander of five space-shuttle flights, took the stage and reminisced about his student years at Cal Poly and the meaningful effect of the university's "learn-by-doing" approach in his life.

Cal Poly parent Marie Gallo spoke on behalf of herself and her husband, Robert J. Gallo, and their son, Tom Gallo (GrC '88). She introduced the campaign video, which included remarks by President Baker, scenes of faculty, staff, and students engaged in learning by doing, and interviews with Cal Poly alumni and students describing the value of their Cal Poly education.

President Baker then announced the $225 million fund-raising goal for the Centennial Campaign, stating that more than $134 million had already been raised. Major donors attending the dinner were asked to stand and be recognized by their peers.

Newsman Tom Brokaw presented remarks on the state of American education, ranging from the personal to the philosophic, and discussed the interaction between the liberal arts and the technical professions.

Congresswoman Lois Capps recognized the work of Carly Baker as a host for university guests, a tireless volunteer for the university and community, and a gracious planner of university events.

Videos of the event can be viewed on Cal Poly's Centennial Campaign Web site at www.giving.calpoly.edu. The site will continue to be updated throughout the campaign.

(Photos by Patrick Swadener)