

Wine Studies Partnership Sustains Library Collections

The Robert E. Kennedy Library at Cal Poly is the information hub of the campus and serves the local community as well. It houses general resources and materials to support the specialized interests of departments, faculty, and students. But as the cost of print and digital information resources escalates, new solutions are needed to provide the instructional and research collections critical to sustaining Cal Poly's level of excellence.

One exciting model is Education for WineSense, an educational partnership between the Kennedy Library and the San Luis Obispo chapter of Women for WineSense.

The goal of the partnership is to build the print, electronic, and historical collections of wine information resources at Cal Poly to enhance student learning, foster faculty research, and provide much-needed information for the local wine community. Its aim is also to preserve and protect the historic heritage of the Central Coast wine industry through the collection of personal family papers, histories, and other primary research materials.

Central to the vision and support of the Education for WineSense effort is the local chapter of Women for WineSense, a nonprofit, educational, and proactive national organization of women and men who are advocates for wine and the wine industry. Founded in 1990, the organization tracks key medical findings on wine, disseminates information on public policy issues, and sponsors varietal tastings, viticulture seminars, and national conferences. It was involved in a project at the White House, "Setting the Nation's Table," and has conducted cultural heritage education programs on the history of wine.



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The San Luis Obispo chapter of Women for WineSense was started in January 1999 and has more than 100 members. Under the direction of Chairperson Vicki Carroll, the organization established an endowment for the Kennedy Library wine studies resources to further Education for WineSense.

"Education is the focus for the San Luis Obispo chapter, and partnering with Cal Poly made sense to us," Carroll says. "Our membership wholeheartedly embraced the idea of Education for

Vicki Carroll, chairperson of San Luis Obispo's Women for WineSense.

Photo by Jeff Greene

WineSense and continues to support the project through community awareness and fund raising."

The Education for WineSense partnership depends on key relationships with Cal Poly colleges and with the local wine industry to collaborate on developing information resources and sponsor symposia and other activities. The Agribusiness Department in the College of Agriculture has been instrumental in helping to develop the vision for the endeavor to support its new viticulture program.

In seeking a paradigm for funding the collections, the Kennedy Library is indebted to Women for WineSense for its endowment to support the growing interest in wine studies and the history of the wine industry on the Central Coast.