

U.S. News Rates Cal Poly #1 in Category for 11th Straight Year

For the 11th year in a row, Cal Poly has been rated the best public, largely undergraduate university in the West by *U.S. News & World Report* in its 2004 *America's Best Colleges* guidebook.

The university retained its No. 5 position overall in the magazine's list of the West's best public and private universities that provide a full range of undergraduate and master's-level programs but few, if any, doctoral programs.

Also earning a top spot in the magazine's "Best Undergraduate Engineering Programs" – for schools whose highest degree is a bachelor's or master's – is Cal Poly's College of Engineering, rated the No. 3 program at a public school, behind only the U.S. Military Academy and the U.S. Naval Academy.

A number of College of Engineering programs also ranked high in the "Best Undergraduate Engineering Programs" individual specialty categories. The computer, electrical, industrial/manufacturing, and mechanical programs were each ranked as the top program at a public university in their respective specialty categories, and the civil engineering program was the No. 2 ranked program at a public university in its category.

"It is extremely gratifying to garner such national recognition for 11 consecutive years," said Cal Poly President Warren J. Baker.

"It reflects the university's tradition of excellence, its strong focus on undergraduate education and its dedicated faculty, and confirms the value of the unique polytechnic educational experience."

President Baker Joins Leadership of National University Association

Cal Poly President Warren J. Baker has been appointed to the board of the National Association of State Universities and Land-Grant Colleges (NASULGC) and will serve as the leader of the association's



Warren J. Baker

Commission on Information Technologies.

Founded in 1887, the NASULGC is the nation's oldest higher education association.

Dedicated to supporting excellence in teaching, research and public service, the group's 215 members include public universities, land-grant institutions and many of the nation's public university systems located in all 50 states, the U.S. territories and the District of Columbia.

The information technology commission is one of the NASULGC's six key policy-forming units. Created to

identify and develop policy positions and advisory assessments on information technology and related issues, it is committed to serving as a strong voice for public higher education by actively participating in federal initiatives relating to the development of the national information infrastructure and other information-technology policy issues.

Baker said he has a keen interest in the commission's work. "At Cal Poly we are currently exploring the wealth of options brought to our campus by the arrival of Internet2 and other information technology expansions," he said. "We've seen rapid changes in how technology can be used in the classroom, in libraries, in research by faculty and students, and in the workplace. Public universities need to continue their efforts to apply new information technology to support teaching, learning and research, to strengthen education, and to extend the boundaries of knowledge and understanding."

More information on the NASULGC and its Commission on Information Technologies can be found on the association's Web site at www.nasulgc.org.

Cal Poly's University Center for Teacher Education Joins UCSB's Gevirtz Graduate School To Offer First Cal Poly Doctorate

Cal Poly's University Center for Teacher Education (UCTE) and UC Santa Barbara's Gevirtz Graduate School of Education have joined to offer a field-based doctoral program in educational leadership.

The doctoral program is Cal Poly's first, and the first offered jointly by both universities. Director Jim Gentilucci, a UCTE faculty member, said the venture offers access to an affordable, practice-oriented doctoral degree program that trains working professionals to be leaders of rural to mid-sized school districts.

"The program is built upon a tripartite relationship among the two universities, local K-12 school districts and community colleges,"

Gentilucci said. "It is designed to prepare and support educational leaders in scholarly research, using data to inform decisions, critically examine current educational approaches and implement effective practices to improve student achievement and organizational productivity."

The new program takes advantage of the strengths of both universities to provide innovative features, including a focus on non-urban schools, a fixed time to degree, research in professional development districts and annual dissemination of student research findings at summer institutes.

For details, visit www.education.ucsb.edu/jointdoc/ or call Gentilucci at 805/756-5373.