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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Cal Poly to Celebrate Start of Center for Construction Excellence

SAN LUIS OBISPO - Cal Poly's long-anticipated Center for Construction Excellence will soon leap off the drawing board and into the hands of contractors who are turning the site of the former campus Air Conditioning Building into a state-of-the-art facility for future builders.

The College of Architecture and Environmental Design will hold a gala groundbreaking celebration for the new center on Saturday and Sunday, May 6-7. The official groundbreaking ceremony is set for Saturday at 3 p.m.; a complete list of the weekend's activities can be found at www.caed.calpoly.edu.

The center will be the new home of the Construction Management Department. Construction will total 58,000 square feet of lecture space, labs, classrooms and office space at a cost of \$ 21.3 million. Completion of the new complex is expected in summer 2008.

Taking center stage will be a two-story, one-of-a-kind materials demonstration laboratory - the heart of interdisciplinary learning in the Construction Management Department.

Sponsored by Simpson Strong-Tie, the demonstration lab will provide a 5,000-square-foot space for interdisciplinary training in planning, design, engineering and construction. The lab will allow visitors, faculty and practitioners to showcase and demonstrate building components with students.

Other labs will provide specific training and hands-on experience in different segments of the construction industry. The primary named labs at the time of the groundbreaking include the following: Overaa and Watry, fundamentals of construction management; Pulte Homes, residential construction; Cupertino Electric, specialty construction; Granite Construction, heavy/civil construction; Webcor, commercial building; Grant General Contractors, jobsite management; Olson Company, integrated project services; and DPR Construction, classroom sponsorship.

Founders' halls will be named for alumni Rob Rossi and C. Nicholas Watry in honor of their major gifts. Additional supporters who contributed to the facility will also be recognized for supporting other critical components, such as administrative and teaching spaces.

An alumni campaign to raise \$1 million toward completion of the center is underway. For more information, contact Tana Anastasia, Construction Management Department alumni coordinator, at (805) 756-6381 or ganastas@calpoly.edu.

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Note to editors : A rendering of the new Center for Construction Excellence is available by contacting Ray Ladd at rladd@calpoly.edu, or (805) 756-7432.

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