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California Polytechnic State University

## Fall Conference 2005 - A Message from the President

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### Welcome!

I am pleased to welcome each of you to Cal Poly's annual Fall Conference. This year, we are honored to have Cal Poly aeronautical engineering alumnus, Burt Rutan, as our Fall Convocation keynote speaker on Friday morning, September 16."

Burt Rutan is a true aerospace pioneer. Since its establishment in 1982, his company, Scaled Composites, LLC, has established a reputation as "the most aggressive aerospace research company in the world." This reputation was cemented last year, when the company's White Knight launch aircraft carried SpaceShipOne aloft to become the world's first privately built manned spacecraft to reach space (twice), winning the Ansari X PRIZE competition.

On July 27, 2005, Burt Rutan and Sir Richard Branson (founder, Virgin Group of Companies) signed an agreement to establish The Spaceship Company. The goal of the new company is to "develop first-generation spaceship systems for routine, scheduled flights" that will make space travel affordable for the masses.

Burt Rutan's Fall Convocation keynote remarks are titled, "Space, for the Rest of Us," and will be delivered in Harman Hall.

We will take this opportunity to present the President's Medal of Excellence to Burt Rutan, in recognition of his extraordinary lifetime contributions to Aerospace Engineering.

At the Convocation, we also will recognize Cal Poly's distinguished teachers, outstanding faculty advisor and outstanding staff members, and faculty achievements in research, creative activity and professional development. I look forward to this annual occasion to honor our outstanding faculty and staff.

In a brief opening session on the Cohan Center Plaza, following an 8:30 a.m. reception, I will also share a few thoughts about the academic year, and we will hear greetings from representatives of the Academic Senate, Cal Poly Labor Council and ASI.

Again, welcome to Fall Conference and best wishes for a successful and productive year!

**Warren J. Baker**

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