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## Cal Poly Lecture to Outlines NSF's New Requirement for Research Ethics

SAN LUIS OBISPO -- The Ethics + Emerging Technologies Group at Cal Poly will launch a new lecture series with a talk, "Getting 'Good Science' Right: Research Ethics, the NSF, and the America COMPETES Act," from noon to 1 p.m., Friday, Feb. 6, in Room 286 in the Fisher Science Building on campus.

Tom Powers of the University of Delaware will give the inaugural talk in the university's new Technology and Ethics Lecture Series. The talk is free and open to the public. Powers is director of the Science, Ethics, and Public Policy Program and an assistant philosophy professor at the University of Delaware, as well as a research faculty fellow at the acclaimed Delaware Biotechnology Institute. He is also the principal investigator on an NSF-funded project, "RAISE: Research and Integrity in Science and Engineering."

Powers' talk focuses on a new requirement for research-ethics training mandated by the America COMPETES Act (H.R. 2272) that became law in 2007. Section 7009 of that act directs applicants seeking support from the National Science Foundation -- a major source of university research funding -- to "provide appropriate training and oversight in the responsible and ethical conduct of research to undergraduate students, graduate students, and postdoctoral researchers."

Powers will also discuss some models for research-ethics training and suggest how federal requirements could reinvigorate a critical and constructive approach to the philosophy and ethics of science and engineering.

"We're pleased to have Dr. Powers come to Cal Poly and give us his firsthand insights into this new requirement, which will affect many researchers here as well as at hundreds of universities nationwide," said Patrick Lin, director of the Ethics + Emerging Technologies Group.

The Technology & Ethics Lecture Series is sponsored by Cal Poly's Philosophy Department and College of Liberal Arts. For more information, contact Lin at 805-570-5651 or [palin@calpoly.edu](mailto:palin@calpoly.edu).

### About the Ethics + Emerging Technologies Group

Based at Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo, the Ethics and Emerging Technologies Group is a non-partisan research and educational organization focused on the risk, ethical, and social impacts of emerging technologies. Current projects and interests are related to issues in robotics, human enhancement, nanotechnology, space development and other areas.

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