

California Polytechnic State University

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Shoe Art Exhibit on Dexter Lawn Represent College Crime Survivors**

SAN LUIS OBISPO -- The Cal Poly Women's Center SAFER program is exhibiting an art installment on Dexter Lawn from Monday, Sept. 27, to Wednesday, Oct. 6.

The installment, which is created by rows of shoes in groups of four, may not be immediately self-explanatory. "One in four college women are survivors of rape or attempted rape during their college years, explains Kara Groth, a Cal Poly junior and student co-coordinator of the SAFER program.

Utilizing shoes donated by students, faculty, staff and Goodwill, the project will represent the 1-in-4 statistic with every fourth pair of shoes painted red. "The variety of shoes presented in our display represents all the different types of people found on Cal Poly's campus. There are over a hundred pairs of shoes that will be lined up on Dexter lawn," Groth said.

Tara Thompson, co-coordinator of the SAFER program with Groth, added, "We want people to imagine co-workers, friends classmates and neighbors filling these shoes and every fourth person a rape survivor, and remember it can happen to anyone."

Students or faculty who have experienced sexual assault are encouraged to bring their own shoes to the Women's Center to be added to the display.

"It is important for everyone to be part of the solution by bringing an end to the silence," says Women's Center Director Maya Andlig. "I hope people will feel comfortable being part of this collaborative piece of art."

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