



News & Events

University News & Information

California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo, California

Jan. 26, 2004

Contact: Susan Duffy
(805) 756-2935

Cal Poly Awarded \$30,000 Grant To Help Teachers Find Ag, Art Connection

SAN LUIS OBISPO – The Kellogg Foundation has awarded the Cal Poly Liberal Studies Department a \$30,000 grant to fund a program that will help teachers find connections between agriculture and the arts.

The Cal Poly Agricultural Literacy and the Arts project offers a series of professional development workshops and summer institutes for 4th- through 12th-grade teachers. The goal of the project is to raise public awareness about the importance agriculture has in California's economy by training teachers to address agricultural issues in new and creative ways, according to Susan Duffy, chair of the Liberal Studies Department.

"Professional art educators will lead workshops and discuss how artists across the centuries have conveyed the importance of agriculture through literature, visual arts, theater and music," Duffy said.

The first workshop, titled "Agriculture and Medicine," was held earlier this month. The next workshop, "Agricultural Icons in American Society," will be March 13.

"In this workshop, the focus will be on artworks that serve as a tribute to American agriculture as well as serve as metaphoric emblems of the democratic masses of America," Duffy said. Space is still available for teachers who would like to participate.

In addition, a public lecture and slide presentation by internationally acclaimed photographer Jock McDonald is set for 7 p.m. March 12 at Cal Poly. A summer institute is also planned Aug. 13-14. Workshops are still being planned, but topics under consideration include "Thomas Hart Benton's Agrarian Art," "Textile Arts and Agriculture," and another that would explore the use of two California crops by professional artists.

"All workshops incorporate the California Visual and Performing Arts standards, along with the state content standards in applicable areas of science, literature and social studies," Duffy said.

Continuing education credits are available through Cal Poly Continuing Education. For more information on the upcoming workshops and summer institute, contact Duffy at 756-2935 or sduffy@calpoly.edu.

#

(NOTE: More information on the Jock McDonald talk and slide presentation will be included in a forthcoming news release.)

