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California Polytechnic State University

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For Immediate Release

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Former Neo-Nazi White Supremacist to Speak at Cal Poly's Chumash Auditorium

SAN LUIS OBISPO -Associated Students, Inc. (ASI) Events brings speaker T.J. Leyden and his provocative yet redeeming story to Chumash Auditorium at 7 p.m. May 19.

After 15 years as a neo-Nazi white supremacist, Tom "T.J." Leyden experienced a profound change of heart and mind. He has since turned away from hate and begun teaching tolerance and respect. Although he receives regular death threats from former friends, Leyden continues to lecture across the country. He stands by his reformation and his commitment to being a fierce advocate for the importance of appreciating the differences in all people.

"Mr. Leyden has now dedicated his life to confronting issues such as racism, anti-Semitism, and hate crimes through education, community involvement, and social action," is how Judy Shepard, executive director of the Matthew Shepard Foundation describes Leyden.

Since Leyden's transformation he has spoken at the White House Conference on Hate, trained employees at the Pentagon and FBI, lectured at military bases, and addressed more than 650,000 students.

Admission to the event is free and open to both Cal Poly and the public. For more information contact Amie Vickerman, student supervisor of special events or Justin Cox, student supervisor of marketing and PR, (805) 756-1112.

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