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California Polytechnic State University

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Cal Poly Selects Three Outstanding Employees

**Outstanding Staff (l to r): Bethel, Long
and Gerhardt**

SAN LUIS OBISPO -- Three well-respected Cal Poly employees, all cited for their exemplary service to the university, have been chosen to receive the 2002-2003 Outstanding Staff Award. They are Sue Bethel, academic personnel specialist in Academic Personnel; Jim Gerhardt, equipment technician in the Mechanical Engineering Department in the College of Engineering; and Bonnie Long, executive assistant to the provost.

Bethel, an Arroyo Grande resident, came to Cal Poly in 1982. She is noted for her "extraordinary graciousness, helpfulness, and her ability to defuse stressful circumstances," and is widely respected by the faculty for her extensive knowledge of faculty matters and her professionalism. Nominators described her as "the 'poster child' of dedication and loyalty to the job," one who "steps up to the plate," and "goes the extra mile." Additional comments included:

- "Bethel is very university-oriented and serves a large number of people on campus."
- "She is well liked and respected throughout the university."
- "She works wonders in ensuring a smooth hiring process for foreign faculty members."
- "She offered, by far, the best and most informative forums and training for 'end users' on faculty recruitment."
- "Sue exemplifies what is the epitome of a Cal Poly star."

Outside the university, Bethel volunteers to guide home tours and enjoys gardening, golf, attending Historical Society events and spending time with her husband and children.

Gerhardt, who was cited for his honesty, integrity and sense of values, began his career at Cal Poly in 1983. "The title 'technician' barely begins to cover the range of duties he has performed, and still performs, for this department," said a colleague. Other nominators said:

- "Jim is a pillar in the department's 'learn-by-doing' curriculum."
- "Due to Jim's skill, the lab equipment is better than anything that could have been purchased commercially."
- "Jim is a masterful machinist and respected administrator."
- "His knowledge of mechanical systems, manufacturing processes, properties of materials and

fabrication techniques is encyclopedic."

- "Jim is an essential member of this department who continually amazes those he works with, with his range of skills, his always-professional manner, and his focus on keeping this department running like one of his well-oiled machines."

Gerhardt also helps with student club projects for national competitions. He is active in his church, local and regional home-schooling conferences, and various charitable organizations. He lives in Atascadero.

Long arrived on campus in 1968. She is known for her dedication and for always "taking the high ground" and maintaining a "voice of reason, calm and collegiality." She was cited for her perception of the university and its responsibilities to be a good citizen to its neighbors. Additional comments were:

- "She works tirelessly."
- "She is the glue that holds the Provost's Office together because her integrity, work ethic, commitment to the university and support for all are unqualified."
- "Bonnie is dependable, fair and strong."
- "Because of Bonnie's longevity with the university, she possesses a critical institutional 'memory' that is unattended with a personal agenda."
- "Her discretion, trustworthiness, tact and diplomacy are impeccable."
- "She treats everyone with respect and dignity. With students, in particular, she goes out of her way to make them feel welcome on committees and to help their learning curve."

Long was called "one of the main forces behind university-oriented activities." She spends her spare time taking care of her family and enjoying her new grandson. She lives in San Luis Obispo.

The winners are nominated by faculty and staff members and reviewed by a committee composed of former award recipients. Cal Poly President Warren J. Baker selects the winners on the basis of the committee's recommendations.

- 30 -

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