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California Polytechnic State University

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Contact: Carol Pendergast

(805) 756-5330

Jim Gentilucci

(805) 756-5373

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Cal Poly To Offer First Doctorate Through Partnership of University Center for Teacher Education, UCSB Gevirtz Graduate School

SAN LUIS OBISPO - Central Coast working professionals interested in earning their doctorate in education will soon be able do so without leaving the county.

Cal Poly's University Center for Teacher Education and UC Santa Barbara's Gevirtz Graduate School of Education have teamed up to offer a unique field-based Doctor of Education degree program in educational leadership.

Designed especially for working professionals, the doctoral degree program is Cal Poly's first. The program emphasizes training working professionals to be leaders of mid-sized to rural school districts and offers access to an affordable, practice-oriented doctoral degree program, according to Jim Gentilucci, director of the new program in educational leadership and a faculty member in the University Center for Teacher Education.

"The program is designed to prepare and support educational leaders to engage in scholarly research, use data to inform decisions, critically examine current educational approaches, and implement effective practices that will improve student achievement and organizational productivity, Gentilucci said.

"This is a truly historic event for both universities," Gentilucci said. "The new doctorate in educational leadership is the first doctoral program offered jointly by the two universities."

The degree program takes advantage of the strengths of both universities to provide a number of innovative features including a

focus on non-urban schools, a fixed time to degree, research in professional development districts, and annual dissemination of student research findings at summer institutes, according to Gentilucci. "The program is built upon a tripartite relationship among the two universities, local K-12 school districts and community colleges."

Applications will be accepted later this month. Students accepted into the program will begin course work in the fall.

For more information about the program, visit its Web site at <http://www.education.ucsb.edu/jointdoc/> or contact Gentilucci at (805) 756-5373.

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California Polytechnic State University

San Luis Obispo, CA 93407

805.756.7266

polynews@calpoly.edu