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California Polytechnic State University

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Industry, Community Leaders Create Cal Poly Forum Honoring Work of Warren and Carly Baker**

When the inaugural Baker Forum is held on the Cal Poly campus Friday and Saturday (April 5-6), it will attract noted scholars, academic and business leaders, and public policy-makers from around the world to explore "The Future of Polytechnic & Science and Technology Universities."

The forum will feature a keynote address on Friday by Susan Hackwood, executive director of the California Council on Science and Technology. She will present key findings and recommendations of a new study on the need for California's educational system to prepare more graduates for critical high-tech jobs.

Also at the forum, Walter E. Massey, president of Atlanta's Morehouse College, a member of the President's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology, and former director of the National Science Foundation, will receive the first Wiley Lifetime Achievement Award. Funded by John Wiley and Sons Inc., the award is presented to an individual whose work exemplifies extraordinary leadership and lasting contributions to American higher education and public life. Massey will also be awarded an honorary doctorate by the California State University and Cal Poly.

The Baker Forum was created by the Cal Poly President's Cabinet, a group of 45 industry and community leaders who provide advice and counsel to the university. They established the biennial event as a tribute to more than two decades of service to Cal Poly by President Warren J. Baker and his wife, Carly.

"The forum is designed to honor the Bakers' leadership, vision and contributions to the university and to American higher education," President's Cabinet Chair Jaime Oaxaca said. "Not only will it be a fitting tribute to a wonderful team, but it will also provide prominent educators, industry leaders and public policy-makers with ideas on how

we can better plan for the future and educate students for the opportunities and challenges our society faces."

To date, more than \$200,000 has been raised for the forum's endowment. Donations have come from President's Cabinet members and other friends and supporters. One of the first major gifts, from Oaxaca, provided an endowment supporting forum activities. A significant planned gift will benefit the Baker Forum in the future, according to Vice President for University Advancement Bill Boldt.

"The Baker Forum will provide a vital exchange of ideas on critical issues affecting higher education - especially those pertaining to polytechnic, science and technology universities," said Cal Poly Provost Paul Zingg.

The event is expected to attract national and international business and industry leaders, university presidents, provosts and other representatives of major polytechnic, scientific and technological institutions from the United States, Latin America, Europe and Asia.

The Baker Forum Web site is <http://www.bakerforum.calpoly.edu>. For additional information, contact Zingg at (805) 756-2186 or [pzingg@calpoly.edu](mailto:pzingg@calpoly.edu).

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