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California Polytechnic State University

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Cal Poly Professor Selected To Join Discussion of 'Deepening the American Dream'

Cal Poly English Professor Robert Inchausti, author of "The Ignorant Perfection of Ordinary People" and "Thomas Merton's American Prophecy," has been selected to join nine other nationally known scholar-writers in Michigan this summer for a discussion of "Deepening the American Dream."

The Fetzer Institute of Kalamazoo will host the gathering June 23-25 to "sow the seeds of a national conversation from which a deeper understanding of the American dream can emerge," according to a news release from the institute. The nonprofit foundation has also commissioned related essays by the writers, who include Kathleen Norris, author of "The Cloistered Walk," Elaine Pagels, author of "The Gnostic Gospels," and Huston Smith, who wrote "The Religions of Man."

The other writers involved are Cynthia Bourgeault, Carolyn Thompson Brown, Patricia Moore Harbour, Gerald G. May, Jacob Needleman and Parker J. Palmer.

"I'm honored to be included with the likes of such writers," Inchausti said.

In describing its reasons for holding the conference, the institute says, "Many observers of our culture have suggested that faith in the American dream is dying, that our vision of hope for the future is fading from view. It has been said that we have lost a sense of common destiny and, as yet, have been unable to see what is emerging in its place. It has taken a national crisis, placing us all in direct awareness of our own vulnerability and mortality, to awaken us to the truth that the American dream is not dying Recent events continue to influence our understanding of a single nation's role in the evolution of the wider human culture.

"Since Sept. 11, many commentators of public life have observed that our country is at a psychological and spiritual turning point," the

institute says.

The Fetzer Institute describes itself as a foundation that "supports research, education and service programs exploring the integral relationships among body, mind and spirit It supports the common work of our culture to live with authenticity and wholeness, to integrate the inner life of mind and spirit with the outer life of action and service."

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