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California Polytechnic State University

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Contact: Jo Ann Lloyd

(805) 756-1511

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **Cal Poly 'Latinos in Agriculture' Student Group Wins Third Place at National Conference Competition**

Cal Poly's Latinos in Agriculture student organization won a third-place Chapter of the Year Award at the recent national Minorities in Agriculture, Natural Resources and Related Sciences (MANRRS) Annual Career Fair and Training Conference in Portland, Ore.

Cal Poly became eligible to enter the national contest after winning first place in a 13-state Western regional competition.

The Pennsylvania State University won first-place, and Purdue University won second in the national competition. Iowa State University, the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and Prairieview A&M University also competed. The top three chapters were recognized.

The Chapter of the Year Award competition is designed to promote leadership development among local chapters and advance professional growth among local student members.

Six Cal Poly students gave a presentation about the university's chapter and its activities to a panel of four judges. The chapters are judged on building membership, developing leadership, providing community service and promoting the national society.

The Cal Poly students who gave the presentation are Maria Barrera, Anna Lounibos, Gilbert Peraza, Danilu Ramirez, Marcos Ruiz, Maria Soto and Heather Warren.

Barrera is an agricultural science sophomore from Littlerock, Lounibos is an agriculture graduate student from Vista, Peraza is an agricultural business senior from Hawaiian Gardens, Ramirez is a plant protection science freshman from Calexico, Ruiz is an agricultural

science sophomore from Bloomington, Soto is an agricultural business senior from San Marcos and Warren is an agricultural science senior from San Luis Obispo.

At the conference Lounibos was elected graduate vice president and Ruiz was elected Region VI undergraduate vice president.

MANRRS promotes initiatives that foster the advancement of members of ethnic and cultural groups that are typically underrepresented in agricultural and related fields in all phases of career preparation and participation.

Agricultural Education and Communication Professor Robert Flores advises the Cal Poly chapter. For more information, contact Flores at 756-2169.

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**Cal Poly Public Affairs**

California Polytechnic State University

San Luis Obispo, CA 93407

805.756.7266

[polynews@calpoly.edu](mailto:polynews@calpoly.edu)