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California Polytechnic State University

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **Cal Poly Engineering Student Recognized by CSU System for Volunteer Community Service**

The California State University system has honored Cal Poly mechanical engineering senior Joel Henderson of Sacramento for outstanding community involvement.

Henderson is one of 21 students throughout the state named to receive the CSU's 2002 STARS (Students That Are Recognized for Service) award for community service.

Cited as a "tireless community service leader," Henderson was student coordinator of Cal Poly's 2001 Make a Difference Day. He recruited hundreds of students and community volunteers to aid 20 community agencies for the event. His efforts were instrumental in providing the community with more than 1,600 man-hours of volunteer labor on the day it was held.

As director of the university's Volunteer Reserve Corps, he developed the group into an organization that has provided thousands of hours of on-call volunteer help to local nonprofits in the 18 months since it began.

He also organized a Walk to End Homelessness during Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week that raised \$1,000 for the Maxine Lewis Memorial Shelter in San Luis Obispo.

Henderson became involved in community service as a freshman, concentrating on a program that connects students living in campus residence halls with community social-service agencies.

"Joel embodies what we, as an institution, have come to expect from our future leaders," said President Warren J. Baker in nominating Henderson for the STARS award. "(He) is an exceptional role model."

"CSU STARS award recipients... exemplify our students' dedication and service to the community," said CSU Chancellor Charles B. Reed.

One student from each campus was selected for efforts to improve the lives of individuals or the community in such areas as social justice, education, health, public safety and the environment.

The STARS award was created by Chancellor Reed three years ago to honor community participation and promote service-learning curricula. Community service-learning focuses on learning experiences that take place in the community and are directly related to academic course content. More than 135,000 CSU students systemwide perform 33.6 million hours of community service annually -- service that would cost about \$193.2 million if paid for at minimum wage.

For more information about volunteer community service at Cal Poly, contact Maya Andlig in Student Community Services at 756-6749 or Brady Radovich in the Community Center at 756-5835.

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