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California Polytechnic State University

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Community Leader Wins Part in SLO Performance of "The Vagina Monologues"**

Cal Poly Arts is pleased to announce the casting of San Luis Obispo Chamber of Commerce Board Member Carlyn Christianson as the third actress to take center stage in Eve Ensler's "The Vagina Monologues," the celebrated and provocative play that has become a worldwide phenomenon.

As a unique aspect of "personalizing" the nationwide performances of "The Vagina Monologues," Ms. Christianson joins the professional touring production, starring Geneva Carr and Lisa Tharps, for their San Luis Obispo engagement, which runs Tuesday, April 16 through Sunday, April 21, 2002 at the Cal Poly Theatre.

Based on interviews with a diverse group of women, "The Vagina Monologues" author Eve Ensler has given voice to a chorus of lusty, outrageous, poignant, brave, highly original, and thoroughly human stories.

Ms. Christianson moved to San Luis Obispo in April, 1989. A strong supporter of women's reproduction rights of choice and access, she worked for Planned Parenthood as Center Director from 1989 through 1995 and was key in facilitating the relocation of the Planned Parenthood clinic after the arson fire in February, 1995.

As well as serving on the Chamber's Board of Directors, her community involvement is extensive: Steering Committee Member for ACTION for Healthy Communities; Chair, COC Housing Task Force; Chair, ACTION Housing Initiative. Past affiliations include Board Member, Environmental Defense Center; Board Member, CIR Co-Chair, Foundation for Community Design; Chair, SLO County Health Commission; Board Member, SLO Community Health Foundation; SLO Chamber of Commerce Leadership Program, and the SLO Coastal Superintendent's Blue Ribbon Committee to Study Teach School.

For the past four years, Ms. Christianson has served as Practice Administrator for Coastal Anesthesiology Medical Associates. After her acting experience with "The Vagina Monologues," Ms. Christianson is going to China in May to run a half-marathon on the Great Wall.

Curtain times are as follows: Tuesday through Friday performances, 8 p.m.; Saturday at 3 p.m. and 8 p.m., and Sunday at 3 p.m. and 7 p.m. There will be a lively and informative talk-back/question and answer period with the actresses immediately following the Wednesday, April 17 performance.

Tickets are \$22 and \$34, with student and group discounts available, and may be purchased at Performing Arts Ticket Office, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. weekdays and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturdays. To order by phone, call 805/SLO-ARTS (756-2787); to order by fax: (805) 756-6088.

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