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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## *Cal Poly to Host Feb. 20 Conversation with 2012 National Teacher of the Year*

SAN LUIS OBISPO – Cal Poly and the Clark Center for the Performing Arts will host a presentation by Cal Poly alumna Rebecca Mieliwocki, the 2012 National Teacher of the Year, from 7 to 8:15 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 20.

Mieliwocki will present “Supercharging the Education Profession by Igniting the Power of One” at the Clark Center at Arroyo Grande High School, 487 Fair Oaks Ave. in Arroyo Grande.

Mieliwocki has taught for 14 years, including nine years in her current position as a seventh-grade English teacher at Luther Burbank Middle School in Burbank, Calif.

“Students learn best when they have the most enthusiastic, engaged teachers possible,” she said.

She believes strongly in the importance of good teacher preparation programs, continuous support and collaboration opportunities for veteran teachers, and a strong school leadership team to guide and drive achievement. She values the teaching profession as a sought-after career and one that can transform the nation for the better.

“I firmly believe that teachers must be held accountable for their students’ success, from helping them meet personal or schoolwide learning goals to achieving on district- and state-level assessments,” Mieliwocki said. “Our students are our future, so we, their teachers, must do our best to inspire them and guide them to greatness.”

Mieliwocki earned a Bachelor of Arts in speech communication from Cal Poly and a professional clear credential in secondary English education from California State University Northridge. She is the 2005 California League of Middle Schools Educator of the Year for Southern California, a 2009 PTA Honorary Service Award winner, and a Beginning Teacher Support and Assessment (BTSA) mentor. She has also served as a teacher expert for a CSUN College of Education Panel titled “The ABCs of IEPs.”

A child of two veteran public school teachers, Mieliwocki initially shied away from becoming a teacher. But she soon realized, she said, that there is “no nobler profession” than teaching. Her own K-12 teachers are her heroes, and she models her teaching style on the example they set for her. She works hard to provide her students with exciting and dynamic lessons that are both educational and amusing.

Mieliwocki’s presentation is free and open to the public. It is sponsored by Cal Poly’s College of Liberal Arts and School of Education. Doors will open at 6:30 p.m. After the talk, Mieliwocki will take questions from the audience.

For more details, visit the Cal Poly School of Education’s website at [www.soe.calpoly.edu/](http://www.soe.calpoly.edu/) or the College of Liberal Arts website at [www.cla.calpoly.edu/](http://www.cla.calpoly.edu/), or contact Megan Guise in the English Department at 805-756-2134 or [meguise@calpoly.edu](mailto:meguise@calpoly.edu).

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