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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Cal Poly to Host Second Annual Diversity and Inclusiveness Colloquium Feb. 5

SAN LUIS OBISPO – Cal Poly’s second annual Diversity and Inclusiveness Colloquium, featuring speakers and a panel discussion, will run from 5:30 to 7:15 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 5, in Harman Hall in the Christopher Cohan Performing Arts Center on campus. A reception with exhibits will follow in the Rossi Main Lobby.

This year Cal Poly worked with the San Luis Obispo Chamber of Commerce’s Diversity Committee in planning this event. Speakers will discuss how Cal Poly and the city can develop inviting climates for people of all backgrounds, including race, ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, class and ability.

The keynote speaker will be Lauren N. Nile, an attorney and nationally recognized trainer on diversity and inclusiveness whose skills include leadership, team building, organizational communication, conflict resolution, sexual harassment prevention and intervention, cultural competence, training-of-trainers, and facilitated dialogue.

Nile was selected by the Equal Employment Opportunity Office of the Executive Office of the President of the United States to conduct the first officewide sexual harassment training for the President’s White House staff. Texaco Corp. selected her as a member of its national diversity training team.

As director of training for the National Multicultural Institute, Nile authored the highly acclaimed “Guide for Diversity Trainers Manual.” She has been interviewed on National Public Radio and the Fox News Network and was quoted in the Washington Post, Business Week, and the Christian Science Monitor. For the past five years, she has served as manager of professional development at California State University, Northridge.

“We have a slate of impressive speakers and panel members, plus 20 campus and community organizations will have displays before the colloquium and at the closing reception,” said Harvey Levenson, head of Cal Poly’s Graphic Communication Department and a member of the colloquium planning committee. “We couldn’t accommodate all of the organizations that wanted to exhibit.”

Local radio talk-show host David Congalton will moderate a panel that includes faculty, staff, students and members of the greater San Luis Obispo educational and business communities.

In addition to the keynote presentation, addresses will be given by Cal Poly President Jeffrey D. Armstrong, Cuesta College President Gil Stork, San Luis Obispo Chamber of Commerce President and CEO Ermina Karim, and San Luis Obispo Mayor Jan Marx.

A highlight of the colloquium will be the premier showing of video clips of immigrant business owners talking about their experiences of how they came to live and work on the Central Coast.

Attendance is free and open to all. Parking is sponsored by Cal Poly. For details about the event, go to http://grci.calpoly.edu/promos/diversity_2013.html.

For more information, contact Levenson at 805-756-6151 or hlevenso@calpoly.edu or Missy Reitner-Cameron, chair of the San Luis Obispo Chamber of Commerce Diversity Committee, at 805-959-1368 or missy@iidesign.com.

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