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Cal Poly Ranks in Top 100 on PayScale Survey of College Tuition Return on Investment

SAN LUIS OBISPO – PayScale, a website that analyzes career and compensation data, has ranked Cal Poly in the top 100 of its listing of college tuition return on investment –tuition costs versus graduates’ lifetime earnings.

PayScale ranked universities in several categories. Among public universities, Cal Poly ranked 12th in the nation. Among all public and private universities that were assessed, Cal Poly ranked 62nd in the nation when the baseline comparison was for in-state tuition and 76th when the baseline was for out-of-state tuition.

The latest PayScale rankings come in the wake of data showing that the number of Cal Poly graduates who find full-time employment after graduation improved again in 2012, and the overall employment rate for recent Cal Poly graduates is substantially higher than the national average.

In the latest data, nearly 90 percent of graduates reported that they are working full-time or are pursuing their field of study in graduate school. Sixty-eight percent of respondents said they are employed full time, and 18 percent said they are in graduate school. Another 5 percent reported that they are working part time.

“At a time when new college graduates are still facing a tough job market, these statistics are more evidence that a Cal Poly degree remains one of the best values in higher education,” said Cal Poly President Jeffrey D. Armstrong.

“Our graduates can look forward to bright futures because Cal Poly, as a comprehensive polytechnic university, challenges students to tackle problems in a whole-system way,” Armstrong said. “As a result, our graduates are not only technically proficient, but they are also able to discern the bigger picture, which is part of what makes them so attractive to employers. Couple that with Cal Poly’s renowned Learn by Doing approach, and you have graduates who are life-long learners, an invaluable trait for succeeding in an increasingly complex world.”

PayScale ranked 1,248 U.S. private and public colleges for both in-state and out-of-state tuition. The data used to produce PayScale’s College Return on Investment (ROI) Package were collected from full-time employees with a bachelor’s degree who completed PayScale’s employee survey.

The universities with the three highest ROI’s were Harvey Mudd College, California Institute of Technology and Massachusetts Institute of Technology, respectively. For a complete listing and more information, including the methodology used to calculate the ROI, visit

<http://www.payscale.com/college-education-value>.

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