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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Cal Poly's Renovated Rec Center Receives LEED Gold Certification

Nearly One-Third of Campus Buildings Now Recognized with Sustainability Designation

SAN LUIS OBISPO – Cal Poly's Recreation Center, which underwent a major renovation and addition of 65,000 square feet of space from 2010-12, has received LEED Gold Certification from the U.S. Green Building Council.

Gold is the second-highest certification awarded through the council's LEED (or Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) rating system, which gives building owners and operators a framework for identifying and implementing practical and measurable green building design, construction, operations and maintenance solutions.

Cal Poly initially opened its rec center in 1993. The renovation and addition — funded entirely by revenue from fee increases students approved in a 2008 referendum — finished in winter 2012. The work tripled the center's overall exercise space, overhauled the men's and women's locker rooms, and added new components such as an indoor jogging track, squash court, multi-purpose activity gym, leisure pool and deck, and an additional sand volleyball court.

"Learning that our project was awarded LEED Gold certification is gratifying, because that was our aim throughout the planning and construction process," said Interim ASI Executive Director Marcy Maloney. "We are proud to provide our students, faculty and staff with a beautiful, cutting-edge facility that also illustrates best practices in sustainable construction."

Elements of the rec center renovation that helped earn the LEED certification include: state-of-the-art indirect/direct evaporative cooling system, maximized use of natural light by way of "light harvesting," water-efficient landscaping, and a "green roof" that helps reduce heat.

With this latest designation, nearly one-third of the buildings on Cal Poly's campus are now LEED certified.

"Sustainable construction and maintenance of our facilities continues to be a high priority for Cal Poly," said Larry Kelley, the university's senior vice president of administration and finance. "Our new Center for Science and Mathematics is being built with a goal of attaining LEED Gold certification, at least. And we hope to earn LEED certification on the renovations of several existing buildings within the next few years."

About the US Green Building Council

The U.S. Green Building Council is a nonprofit organization committed to a prosperous and sustainable future for the U.S. through cost-efficient and energy-saving green buildings. USGBC works toward its mission of market transformation through its LEED green building program, robust educational offerings, a nationwide network of chapters and affiliates, the annual Greenbuild International Conference & Expo, and advocacy in support of public policy that encourages and enables green buildings and communities. For more information, visit www.usgbc.org.

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