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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Cal Poly to Offer Professional Compost Training in March 2014

SAN LUIS OBISPO — Cal Poly's Center for Sustainability in the College of Agriculture, Food & Environmental Sciences will host a five-day workshop March 24-28 on large-scale composting.

The professional development training, to be held at the Cal Poly Compost Unit, will be supplemented by tours of regional composting operations and farms and municipalities that have incorporated composting into their processes.

The workshop is open to the public and will be geared toward agricultural professionals and farmers, conservation and waste management professionals, faculty members and students.

The workshop will include classroom, laboratory and hands-on exercises in such topics as basic composting methods, regulations and feedstock analysis, consumer education, compost marketing, and the business of composting. Special emphasis will be placed on the benefits of compost for crop health, nutrient management, and soil and water quality.

The program will be taught by an interdisciplinary team of experts from the Maine Compost School and Cal Poly faculty and staff from the Agricultural Operations unit and the departments of Natural Resources Management & Environmental Sciences and Civil and Environmental Engineering.

The cost for the weeklong training is \$450 and includes instructional materials and all lunches and snacks. The workshop is a component of the Cal Poly Compost Project funded by the Harold J. Miossi Charitable Trust.

For more information about the Cal Poly Compost Project and training, visit www.cfs.calpoly.edu/programs/compost.html. To enroll, contact the Center for Sustainability at 805-756-5086 or cfs@calpoly.edu.

About the Cal Poly Compost Unit

The Cal Poly Compost Unit is one of the nation's largest university composting facilities. It produces high-quality compost that has received the Seal of Testing Assurance from the U.S. Composting Council.

About the Maine Compost School

The Maine Compost School (www.composting.org) is located at Highmoor Farm, a University of Maine research farm in Monmouth, Maine. The school specializes in classroom instruction, laboratory experience and hands-on project exercises in topics such as basic composting methods, composting biology, rules and regulations, consumer education and compost marketing. For more information, visit www.composting.org.

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