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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Inclusive Excellence Week at Cal Poly brings action to diversity May 8-16

SAN LUIS OBISPO — Cal Poly is hosting Inclusive Excellence Week from May 8-16, which will feature speakers, films, performances and a talk by “Orange is the New Black” star Laverne Cox to heighten diversity and inclusion awareness.

“The weeklong event presents an opportunity for the campus and local community to learn about the vast ways in which diversity is defined through a variety of activities that are sure to ignite passion for diversity in participants,” said Annie Holmes, executive director of the Office of University Diversity and Inclusivity.

Cox, best known for her portrayal of Sophia Burset on the Netflix series, also speaks and writes about transgender rights and other current affairs. Her talk, titled “Don’t Put Me in a Box,” will be held at 7 p.m. on Thursday, May 14, in Chumash Auditorium in the University Union.

All events are open to the public. Some events require advance ticket purchase.

In addition, filmmaker, author and Cal Poly alumnus Steffan Tubbs will screen his 2013 film “Life, Liberty, and Resilience: The Documentary” on Tuesday, May 12, from 8:10-10 p.m. in Room 124 of the Christopher Cohan Center. The film tells the story of Joe LaNier, one of the first African-American Navy Seabees who shipped out to Iwo Jima in 1945, and his efforts to overcome segregation.

On Friday, May 15, filmmaker and Cal Poly photography Professor Sky Bergman will host a panel discussion and preview of her documentary “Lives Well Lived,” which includes interviews with World War II survivors, artists, teachers, doctors and yoga instructors at 1 p.m. in Engineering IV (Building 192), Room 106.

The full schedule for the week is available on the Office of University Diversity and Inclusivity website at <http://www.diversity.calpoly.edu/inclusive-excellence-week>.

For more details, call 756-2250 or email diversity@calpoly.edu.

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