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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Starting a Company to be Focus of May 18 Forum at Cal Poly

SAN LUIS OBISPO — Cal Poly will host “Startup Life: What it Takes to Start a Company,” from 4:30 to 7:15 p.m., Monday, May 18, at the Performing Arts Center at Cal Poly.

The final forum in the Center for Innovation & Entrepreneurship’s (CIE) 2014-15 series will showcase the new teams that have been accepted into the three-month SLO HotHouse Accelerator program, which provides \$10,000 in seed funding, workspace and intensive mentoring to young startup firms.

“Investing in student startups is at the core of CIE’s mission, said Jonathan York, professor in the Orfalea College of Business and co-founder and faculty director of CIE. “We’re excited to see how these companies develop over the next summer and beyond.”

A group of local entrepreneurs that are surviving and thriving in their startup ventures will discuss what it takes to launch a new venture. Panelists include Josh Hirahara, CEO and co-founder of Boost Acquisition, a web application that helps car dealerships buy used cars from online marketplaces; Jasmine McDermott, co-founder of Z Living Systems, which designs and installs vertical gardens; David Janzen, co-founder of Steadfast Innovation, which has created Papyrus, a natural handwriting note-taking application for Android devices; and Mike Linn, owner and co-founder of SLO Safe Ride, specializing in responsible group transportation.

Attendees can also network with local and national innovators, like-minded entrepreneurs, and learn more about CIE resources and services.

The forum is free and open to the public; however, advance registration is required. For more information and to register, go to <http://mayforum2015.eventbrite.com>. Snacks and wine will be served.

About the Cal Poly Center for Innovation & Entrepreneurship
The Cal Poly Center for Innovation & Entrepreneurship manages and supports a wide variety of programs and activities to stimulate the entrepreneurial Learn by Doing spirit at Cal Poly and to assist entrepreneurs in following their dreams. For more information, go to cie.calpoly.edu.

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