Cal Poly faculty members, students, staff, alumni, and honored guests marked 100 years of service to California and the nation during the university's two-day Founders Celebration in September.

An evening colloquium brought together leaders from academe, government, and the private sector. Cal Poly President Warren J. Baker moderated a panel discussion featuring David Baltimore, Nobel Prize laureate and Caltech president; Gary Bloom (CSC '82), VERITAS Software chairman, president, and CEO; Rita Colwell, National Science Foundation director; and Richard DeMillo, Hewlett-Packard vice president and chief technology officer.

The colloquium topic, "Educating a Diverse Population for the Nation's Science- and Technology-Based Economy," prompted a wide-ranging conversation. Panelists brought the perspectives of national science policy, higher education, and industry to bear in commenting on this important national challenge. They also discussed ways in which universities, industry, and government can work together to ensure that a new generation of learners, innovators, problem solvers, and leaders is educated for a century increasingly dependent on science and technology.

An academic procession and a Founders Convocation the next morning commemorated Cal Poly's rich history as a center of learning. More than 1,000 participants and guests, including representatives from universities, colleges, and institutions around the world, celebrated Cal Poly and its special place in California and higher education.

Baker shared reflections on Cal Poly's first century and expressed appreciation to the university's faculty for establishing a distinctive tradition of teaching and learning that retains critical relevance to the needs of a new century. He was joined in conferring honorary doctorates on Baltimore and Colwell by Laurence K. Gould Jr., CSU board of trustees chair, and CSU Chancellor Charles B. Reed. Baltimore delivered the keynote address, "Dual Roles for Universities: Generating Knowledge and Jobs."

An All-University Picnic, held at the Sports Complex, rounded out the festivities with music, games, sporting events, picnic fare, and a 100-foot cake. More than 5,500 campus and community members joined in the afternoon celebration.