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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Cal Poly Professor Recognized for Visual Art Education**

SAN LUIS OBISPO – Deborah Spatafore, a professor in Cal Poly’s Liberal Studies Department, was recently recognized for her contributions to enhance art education in California.

Spatafore, of San Luis Obispo, was named the 2007 Outstanding Supervisor/Administrator Visual Art Educator by the California Art Education Association. A longtime advocate for art education, Spatafore was praised for her efforts, including participating in dozens of workshops for teachers and for developing plans and proposals for school boards, superintendents, county offices of education, principals, teachers and art groups.

She is a founding member of the Arts Consortium of San Luis Obispo and serves on the Central Coast Center for Art Education. She is working with school districts to develop a comprehensive arts program for elementary school students, and is also creating a comprehensive professional development program in the arts for elementary teachers.

At Cal Poly, she has developed five courses on teaching art in elementary schools. Currently she is conducting research on integrating visual arts into the elementary classroom.

Spatafore will be presented with the award in November at the California Art Education Association conference in Pasadena.

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