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Cal Poly President Earns Top CEO Leadership Award

SAN LUIS OBISPO – Cal Poly President Warren J. Baker has received the 2004 Chief Executive Leadership Award from the Far West Region of the Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE).

The award was created in 1999 to honor institutional leaders for outstanding contributions to their campus, for efforts to promote and support public understanding of education, and for support of advancement at their campuses.

“Warren Baker certainly deserves this honor for all that he has done for Cal Poly San Luis Obispo and the entire CSU system, but particularly in the field of advancement, where he has led his team to new heights,” said Charles B. Reed, chancellor of the California State University system. “His leadership has enabled Cal Poly to reach the top in private fund-raising, which is so valuable for enhancing quality and making Cal Poly San Luis Obispo an even better university.”

Baker will be honored at an awards luncheon during the CASE District VII Conference Dec. 6 in San Francisco. He will also be honored at the CASE International Conference in July 2005. The Far West Region, or District VII, includes Arizona, California, Hawaii, Nevada and Utah.

Baker, a civil engineer registered to practice in four states, has served as president of Cal Poly since 1979. He has achieved distinction as a teacher, scholar and administrator.

Under his leadership, the Cal Poly Centennial Campaign has raised nearly $250 million, having exceeded its $225-million goal a year ahead of schedule.

Baker has received numerous awards, including the University of Notre Dame’s Cavanaugh Award in 1997, the highest award bestowed on an alumnus for outstanding public service, as well as Outstanding Alumnus Awards from the Colleges of Engineering at the University of New Mexico and Notre Dame.

Baker was a presidential appointee on the National Science Board, serving as chairman of the board’s polar research committee and the standing committee on programs and plans. He was also a presidential appointee on the Board for International Food and Agriculture Development.

A charter appointee and member of the board of directors of the California Council on Science and Technology, he was also a founding chairman of the national Civil Engineering Research Foundation.
He earned a bachelor’s and master’s degrees in civil engineering from Notre Dame and a Ph.D. in geotechnical engineering from the University of New Mexico. He and his wife, Carly, live in Avila Beach.

Baker is the fourth CSU president to receive this CASE award since it was instituted in 1999. Other CSU recipients are John Welty of Fresno, Robert Maxson of Long Beach and Marvalene Hughes of Stanislaus.

CASE is an international professional association encouraging support for higher education. Its members include both private and public universities. For more information about the organization or its awards, visit the CASE Web site at: http://www.case.org/.

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Editors please note: to receive a jpg photo of President Baker via e-mail, please contact JoAnn Lloyd at jllloyd@calpoly.edu or Teresa Hendrix at thendrix@calpoly.edu.