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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Cal Poly Announces Signing of Talloires Declaration on the Environment During Earth Day Activities April 23, 24

SAN LUIS OBISPO – At the Friday April 23 Cal Poly Convocation on Education for Sustainability, Cal Poly President Warren J. Baker will announce that the university has joined Tufts University, Rutgers University, Oberlin College, George Washington University, the College of William and Mary and others in signing the Talloires Declaration, a 10-point pledge to make the campus a place where sustainable resource use and environmental protection are practiced, improved and taught.

“Cal Poly has already begun much of the work detailed in the Talloires Declaration,” Baker stressed. “The Cal Poly Master Plan, the Cal Poly Land project, and the Campus Sustainability Initiative bear witness to our dedication to creating an institutional culture of sustainability, and we pledge to continue that work.

“As a polytechnic university, Cal Poly is uniquely positioned to focus the attention of our many disciplines on environmental responsibility. We are educating California’s future leaders, and we have a responsibility to make sure they graduate with a high level of environmental literacy.”

Cal Poly is the third California public university to join the Talloires movement. UC Santa Barbara and CSU Chico are already Talloires signatories.

The international movement began in 1990, when Tufts University convened a conference in Talloires, France, where educational leaders voiced their concerns about the accelerating degradation and depletion of the world’s natural resources and created a document that spelled out key actions institutions of higher education could take to ensure a sustainable future.

The group developed a 10-point plan known as the Talloires Declaration that has since been signed by the presidents of more than 300 universities around the world.
Linda Dalton, Cal Poly’s executive vice provost for planning, notes that Cal Poly has already undertaken many activities outlined in the Talloires Declaration.

Cal Poly provides education for environmentally responsible citizenship through its educational programs in polytechnic and other emphasis areas. For example, several colleges offer degree programs, minors or other areas of emphasis, such as Natural Resources Management in the College of Agriculture and Civil and Environmental Engineering in the College of Engineering. In the College of Architecture and Environmental Design, the interdisciplinary “Sustainable Environment Education” emphasis provides exposure to principles of sustainability across the college’s programs.

The Cal Poly Campus Sustainability Initiative, begun in 2000, has become the clearinghouse for both continuing and new sustainability activities. The CSI committee, which includes faculty, staff, administrators and students, has met with all deans regarding future campus building projects.

In addition, Dalton noted, Cal Poly is home to a number of learning centers and institutes which advise industry and government on a variety of projects. These include the Environmental Biotechnology Institute, the Coastal Resources Institute, the Irrigation Training Research Center, the Renewable Energy Institute, and the Evelyn and Harold Hay project, which supports solar building design.

“Cal Poly is committed to solving problems created by outdated technologies and to promoting both innovative solutions and successful traditional alternatives,” Dalton said. “Students and faculty are collaborating already in our laboratory courses and institutes, in our Campus Sustainability Initiative and other projects to devise more environmentally sensitive ways to meet society’s needs. Students, faculty and staff are working together to operate the university more sustainably through energy conservation, recycling and the use of alternative transportation.”


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