California Polytechnic State University

June 19, 2003

Contact: Amy Hewes
(805) 756-6402

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Cal Poly Industry-Funded Summer Institute To Introduce Students to Energy Issues

SAN LUIS OBISPO -- Thirty high school, community college, and Cal Poly mechanical engineering students will spend next week at Cal Poly learning about energy issues, with the majority of their expenses paid by industry sponsors.

Now in its fifth year, the Mechanical Engineering Energy Institute will run Sunday through Friday (June 22-27) with class presentations and lab experiments on campus and field trips to the ConocoPhillips Refinery in Arroyo Grande, the newly opened Oil Museum in Bakersfield and GE Wind Energy facilities in Tehachapi.

Students will learn about the current state and future of energy sources, conservation and use and will put together solar toy cars and test-drive electric bikes charged with solar energy. Presentations will cover fossil fuel, wind energy, cogeneration, geothermal energy, fuel cells, and solar and hydrogen energy.

AeraEnergy, ChevronTexaco and GE Wind Energy are sponsoring the workshop along with Cal Poly's Mechanical Engineering Department. Almost all of the students' costs are paid by industry grants.

More information is available on the World Wide Web at www.meei.net and from program director and Mechanical Engineering Professor Masoud Mehdizadeh at (805) 756-1345.

- 30 -

NOTE TO EDITORS: A photo of a wind turbine such as those the workshop participants will visit near Tehachapi is available from Bob Anderson in Cal Poly's Public Affairs office at (805) 756-1511 or banderso@calpoly.edu.