FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Cal Poly To Hold Poinsettia Open House, Sale Dec. 7

SAN LUIS OBISPO -- Just in time for the holiday season, Cal Poly horticulture and crop science students will hold a Poinsettia Open House and sale from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Dec. 7 at the Cal Poly Plant Shop.

Poinsettias are available in a wide variety of sizes and colors, and the production greenhouse will be open so that customers can select their own plants.

Five students in the university's Horticulture and Crop Science Department began work on the Poinsettia Enterprise Project, which allows students to grow, manage and sell a crop while receiving financial support from the Cal Poly Foundation.

"The support enables the students to benefit from Cal Poly's 'learn-by-doing' philosophy without experiencing any negative financial consequences," said Corwin Graves, a student involved in the enterprise project. "This project, in particular, is focused on all aspects faced by most poinsettia growers in the 'real world,' including propagating, growing, maintaining, controlling pests and disease, and selling."

"The students were able to gain valuable information about to the crop and the various stages in its production cycle," said Professor Virginia Walter.

The Plant Shop is located at Cal Poly at the top of Via Carta Road. For more information, call the shop at 756-1106.

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