Cal Poly Student Entrepreneurs to Develop Apps During ‘Hackathon’ Feb. 15-17

SAN LUIS OBISPO – Evernote is sponsoring Cal Poly’s first “Hackathon,” a 24-hour, nonstop event designed to spark students’ technological creativity Feb. 15-17.

Led by Cal Poly graphic communication Professor Lorraine Donegan and computer engineering senior Kevin Sutardji, the event will bring together students in graphic communication, art and design, engineering, computer science, science and mathematics, business and marketing, architecture, agriculture and other disciplines to pool their creativity and entrepreneurial spirit to build mobile apps and websites.

“This is an exciting opportunity for students from every major on campus to bring their talent and creative ideas to the table to produce a product in a short amount of time,” Donegan said. “The level of expertise Evernote is providing is exemplary, and students will gain valuable experience working with their team.”

The Hackathon will kick off in Cal Poly’s Bonderson Engineering Center at 6 p.m. Friday, Feb. 15, with students meeting and forming teams. The 24-hour event will begin about 9 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 16. Teams will have a few hours to prepare their pitches, which will begin at noon.

The Hackathon is open to all Cal Poly students with an interest in building apps or websites to improve the university, community and society in general. More information can be found on the website for the event: http://calpolyhackathon.eventbrite.com.

Participation categories include: Designer/User Experience, Developer/Engineer, and Ideas/Other. Spectators and members of the press are invited to watch the team presentations at noon on Sunday. Registration is required.

Experienced mentors and speakers will be on hand during the weekend to help participants understand and use key technologies for building apps and websites. Judges from Evernote and other Silicon Valley tech firms will provide feedback and determine the best and most creative apps and award prizes.

“This is an exercise in team-building, networking and entrepreneurship and can possibly lead to start-ups by students,” said Harvey Levenson, head of Cal Poly’s Graphic Communication Department. “What Lorraine Donegan has brought to the university epitomizes Cal Poly’s Learn by Doing educational philosophy and what makes Cal Poly students uniquely qualified to enter their chosen fields.”

To become an industry sponsor, contact Donegan at ldonegan@calpoly.edu.

About Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo

Named the West’s best public master’s-level university for two decades by U.S. News and World Report, Cal Poly is a comprehensive polytechnic campus of about 18,600 mostly undergraduate students on California’s Central Coast. One of the California State University’s 23 campuses, Cal Poly provides a renowned Learn by Doing education aimed at producing innovative professionals and future industry leaders literate in science and technology as well as the liberal arts. Find out more at www.calpoly.edu/.

About Evernote
Evernote’s goal is to help the world remember everything, communicate effectively and get things done. From saving thoughts and ideas to preserving experiences to working efficiently with others, Evernote’s collection of apps make it easy to stay organized and productive. The company’s products include Evernote, Skitch, Penultimate, Evernote Web Clipper, Evernote Hello, Evernote Food, among others. Evernote is an independent, privately held company headquartered in Redwood City, Calif. Find more information at http://evernote.com/.

About the Computer Engineering Society

The Computer Engineering Society (CPEs) is the official computer engineering club on campus, striving to provide technical and professional support for all computer engineers, electrical engineers, and computer scientists. CPEs provides resources such as company information sessions, technical projects, and professional events including the Cal Poly Hackathon. For more information, go to: http://cpes.calpoly.edu.

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