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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Third Annual Cal Poly Diversity and Inclusiveness Colloquium Set for March 4

SAN LUIS OBISPO — The third annual Cal Poly Diversity and Inclusiveness Colloquium — featuring a keynote speech from San Luis Obispo Superior Court Judge Ginger Garrett — will run from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. March 4 on campus.

The topic for the colloquium is “Civil Rights in the 21st Century: How to Engage Citizens.” The event will take place in the Performing Arts Center’s Harman Hall.

The evening will begin with a reception and exhibits in the Rossi Main Lobby from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m., followed by the two-hour colloquium. Attendance and parking is free and open to the public.

“We have worked closely with members of the San Luis Obispo community to create a program that will involve attendees in recognizing the many avenues to be an ally, advocate and activist for social justice,” said Annie Holmes, Cal Poly’s executive director for University Diversity and Inclusivity. “We want attendees to leave motivated to be active and engaged citizens committed to fostering a welcoming San Luis Obispo community for all individuals.”

Garrett began her legal career in 1978 with a prominent civil rights law firm in Tuscaloosa, Ala. During the next 24 years, she worked for the Tuscaloosa Legal Aid Society, the Alabama Disabilities Advocacy Program, and Legal Services Corporation of Alabama before embarking on a career in private practice focusing on public interest law in the areas of mental health, public school inclusivity and poverty law.

Garrett became a court commissioner in San Luis Obispo in 2002, handling family law matters, and was elevated to a judgeship in 2005, handling criminal and juvenile matters.

Garrett has maintained an abiding interest in mental health advocacy and currently presides over two mental health treatment courts that address mentally ill and drug addicted offenders. She is working to set up a component of those courts to address the homeless population that has become so visible in San Luis Obispo County.

The colloquium, to be moderated by Holmes, will include a panel of faculty, staff, students, and members of the greater San Luis Obispo educational and service communities. Additional featured events will include a dance performance by God Squad Dance Crew of Templeton.

Cal Poly President Jeffrey D. Armstrong and Ermina Karim, president and CEO of the San Luis Obispo Chamber of Commerce, will also speak.

The colloquium is sponsored by Cal Poly and the San Luis Obispo Chamber of Commerce.

For more information, contact Cal Poly’s Office of University Diversity and Inclusivity at 805-756-2250 or diversity@calpoly.edu. Additional information is also available

at: http://diversity.calpoly.edu/sites/diversity.wcms.calpoly.edu/files/images/DIV006_colloquiumflyer_2014_Final.pdf

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