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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 3, 2014

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Cal Poly Center for Sustainability Receives Funding from Miossi Charitable Trust

SAN LUIS OBISPO —The College of Agriculture, Food & Environmental Sciences' Center for Sustainability has been awarded \$50,000 from the Harold J. Miossi Charitable Trust to grow its offerings in food system education.

The donation will enable the center to develop and expand campus and community programs as part of a multi-faceted effort to raise public awareness on innovative approaches to regional food system health and sustainability in agriculture overall.

A centerpiece of this year's programming will be a daylong food system conference titled "Resilient Food Systems," to be held at Cal Poly on May 8, 2015. The conference will feature nationally recognized speakers and highlight regional and campus sustainability efforts in food and agriculture. The event will be followed by a campus farm and ranch tour and social gathering May 9.

Additional educational offerings will include a Soil Health Symposium, planned for April 10, which will focus on new findings regarding the relationship between soil microbial ecology and soil health.

Funding from the Miossi Charitable Trust also provides support for Cal Poly's SLOcavore program, a collaboration between the Center for Sustainability and Cal Poly Extended Education that offers public education on the Central Coast's most exciting agricultural and culinary arts.

Student interns supported by the Miossi funding will engage on a number of food system activities, including: assessing pertinent campus and community resources, updating the center's "Foodshed Guide," establishing a farmer's guild network for young farmers, and developing a Real Food Challenge "food calculator" to support sustainable food purchasing on campus. Real Food Challenge is a national student campaign focused on creating healthy, sustainable food system.

The year's events will conclude with a sustainably raised meal offered as part of the center's "Taste of the Future" fundraiser dinner. The celebration of Central Coast food and farming will take place June 6, 2015, and will highlight many of the region's leading food and wine producers.

"Our center's programs would not be possible without the support of our community partners, such as the Miossi Charitable Trust," said Hunter Francis, director of Cal Poly's Center for Sustainability. "We are very grateful for the opportunity this gives us to provide leadership on these timely issues in agriculture – issues that are of increasing interest to students and community members alike. We welcome and encourage others to join the Miossi Trust in supporting our programs."

About the CAFES Center for Sustainability

The Center for Sustainability (www.cfs.calpoly.edu) is a cross-disciplinary initiative in Cal Poly's College of Agriculture, Food & Environmental Sciences dedicated to

advancing education on sustainable food and agricultural systems through curriculum, professional development and on-farm education.

About the Harold J. Miossi Charitable Trust

The Harold J. Miossi Charitable Trust (www.miossicharitabletrust.org) provides assistance to organizations seeking to improve the quality of life for residents of San Luis Obispo and the surrounding area. The foundation focuses on six key areas: animal-related, education, environment, the Catholic church, fine arts and youth development.

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