



CALIFORNIA WORKFORCE NEEDS DISCUSSED

A HIGHLY SKILLED science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) workforce is critical to California's continued economic vitality.

In many quarters there is concern that California will not be able to meet its future STEM workforce needs if the state continues to enroll and graduate college and university students at present rates.

For that reason, Cal Poly and the California State University System have made it a priority to support efforts to expand participation by K-University students in STEM disciplines.

President Warren Baker shared an update on the CSU's efforts to help address this challenge at a May 19, 2007, California Space Authority forum in Los Angeles, convened to further the development of a regional STEM Collaborative Action Plan (STEMCAP).

State Superintendent of Public Instruction Jack O'Connell and Boeing Company Senior Vice President for Internal Services Rick Stephens were other featured speakers at the CSA forum.

In his remarks Baker reviewed two major CSU STEM education initiatives: the CSU Math and Science Teacher Initiative, which has a goal of doubling the number of teachers prepared annually by the CSU in math and science fields, and the CSU Professional Science Master's Initiative, which prepares students to assume leadership roles in California high tech industries.

Baker emphasized that the CSU's STEM initiatives are a major priority of the system. They seek to identify best practices that are "scalable, forge collaborative initiatives with the K-12, community college and private sectors, and prepare more graduates for work as educators, practitioners and managers in STEM fields."

The STEMCAP initiative is supported by a WIRED (Workforce Innovation in Regional Economic Development) grant from the U.S. Department of Labor. □

PLAN YOUR GIVING ONLINE

ALUMNI AND FRIENDS have a new place to learn the many ways to support Cal Poly through thoughtful estate planning.

The Planned Giving and Endowments office has created a new web site, www.plannedgiving.calpoly.edu, which contains examples and descriptions of how making a gift to Cal Poly can be easier than imagined.

From naming Cal Poly in your will to designating the University as a retirement plan beneficiary, making a future gift can be a simple way of supporting your department, creating a scholarship or honoring a mentor.

Other planned gifts can actually provide income. The easy-to-use online calculator can show how to turn an underperforming asset into a reliable income stream, also allowing you to also make a gift to Cal Poly.

The Planned Giving Web site can help you consider your charitable priorities. For more information, call the Planned Giving and Endowments office at 1-800-549-2666. □

RECORD AMOUNT RAISED FOR WHEELCHAIR FOUNDATION

THE CAL POLY WHEELCHAIR FOUNDATION recently raised \$48,000 at its Sixth Annual Gift of Mobility Benefit. Proceeds from the event brought the team's annual fund-raising total to more than \$80,000, exceeding their original goal of \$66,000.

The group will deliver more than 1,000 wheelchairs to Argentina in early September.

They chose Argentina because according to estimates, only 45 percent of the population has adequate healthcare. This

THE GROUP WILL DELIVER MORE THAN 1,000 WHEELCHAIRS TO ARGENTINA IN EARLY SEPTEMBER

year's distribution will include a large delivery in Buenos Aires and personal distributions to homes in rural areas. The team also plans to deliver personal items such as toothbrushes, shoes, socks and blankets to area orphanages.

The Cal Poly Chapter of the Wheelchair Foundation was founded in April 2001 to provide students with an opportunity to apply their education to a beneficial cause. The first student chapter of the Wheelchair Foundation in the nation, it has received four President's Community-Based Learning and Service Awards. □