



Office of Public Affairs  
*Division of University Advancement*

## News Release

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### **Cal Poly Pomona Students Provide Free Homework Assistance at Pomona Public Library Grand Opening Event Scheduled April 15**

POMONA, Calif. — April 11, 2008 — Cal Poly Pomona's Center for Community Service-Learning will unveil a new homework assistance center dedicated to empowering local schoolchildren. The grand opening will be Tuesday, April 15 from 3 – 4 p.m. at the center, located in the Pomona Public Library, 625 S. Garey Ave.

The public is welcome to the free event, where they will be joined by prominent businesspeople and Cal Poly Pomona's first lady Betty Ortiz, who is also a member of the university's advisory group Partners in Education (PIE).

Located in the Pomona Public Library's story-telling area, the homework assistance center provides free services to local schoolchildren from third to sixth grade. Children are also supplied with activities and snacks.

Families interested in the free service are welcome to come in at any time during the center's hours. The center is open Tuesdays through Thursdays from 4 – 6 p.m.

Headed by Cal Poly Pomona student Charlene Wyatt, the homework center is staffed by a total of 25 Cal Poly Pomona student volunteers who dedicate several hours each week at the center.

"This is a chance for volunteers to work in their community," said Wyatt, a senior liberal studies student and AmeriCorps Promise Fellow. "Those who come in to volunteer are future teachers and educators, so this gives them a lot of experience."

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The idea for a homework center began in December 2007 as a collaboration between the university's Center for Community Service-Learning and PIE to motivate children's interest in homework and learning. Additionally, the center's volunteers would serve as role models to the children, whom they mentor and encourage to succeed.

By March 4, the homework center opened and began accepting its first students.

For volunteer Ivan Garcia, a freshman Cal Poly Pomona construction engineering student, the most rewarding aspect of working at the homework center is knowing he made a difference in his tutees' learning.

"Seeing positive results on their tests puts a big smile on my face," said Garcia. "Working at the center benefits me as well because it allows me to explore new ways of teaching."

The homework center works closely with liberal studies professor Dr. Christina Chavez and her service learning class in developing outreach presentations to elementary schools in the Pomona Unified School District. Additionally, Cal Poly Pomona's Center for Community Service-Learning is promoting the service through visits at the Downtown Center's Family Fun Days, and to Pomona recreational centers and churches.

The homework center is funded by AmeriCorps and the Center for Community Service-Learning. Most recently, Athens Trash Services donated two laptop computers and a printer. In addition, David Bogardus, head librarian for the Pomona Unified School District, donated textbooks.

For more information, please contact Charlene Wyatt at (909) 869-3129.

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**ABOUT CAL POLY POMONA** — Striking a balance between urban excitement and rural charm, Cal Poly Pomona is nestled in 1,438 rolling acres in the heart of sunny Southern California. With 3,000 faculty and staff to serve 21,500 students, Cal Poly Pomona's mission is to advance knowledge by linking theory and practice while preparing students for leadership and careers in a multicultural world. The university seeks to place learning at the center of every program, course, and activity on campus. Students can apply their knowledge through hands-on projects, collaborate with faculty members on research, and participate in valuable internships and service learning programs. Seven colleges (agriculture; letters, arts and social sciences; business administration; education; engineering; environmental design; and science) and one school (Collins School of Hospitality Management) offer 56 undergraduate and 23 graduate degrees, as well as 8 credential programs.