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May 7, 2009

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Media Advisory

California State University San Marcos Announces New Master of Biotechnology Program

~Program Scheduled to Launch This Fall~

San Marcos – California State University San Marcos (CSUSM) Extended Learning will begin offering a new Master of Biotechnology program. At today’s meeting of the CSUSM Academic Senate, the program was approved by a unanimous vote.

“This will be the area’s first professional degree of its kind for the biotechnology industry,” explained Dr. Al Kern, professor and founder of the University’s biotechnology programs. “This program is specifically tailored to prepare graduates to meet industry needs for the growing life science industry, so you can see why there is so much excitement about the launch of this program among both students and potential industry employers in our region.”

Biotechnology is one of the fastest growing sectors in the U.S. today, and projected to be one of the fastest for years to come. California currently boasts over 30% of the nation’s biotechnology companies, and the San Diego region is the number one biotech cluster in the world (Milken Institute Report, America’s Biotechnology Clusters, June 2004) with more than 500 biotech/biomed/biopharma companies.

“But, the biotech companies of today are very different,” said Dr. Kern. “It is not enough anymore just to know science. Today’s biotech companies are hiring those who have both a strong background in science and broad-range business skills.”

The Master of Biotechnology is a Professional Science Master’s degree, and thus is designed to allow students to pursue advanced training and excel in science without a Ph.D., while simultaneously developing highly valued business skills without an M.B.A. The program curricula will include laboratory/technology-rich exposure in biotechnology; MBA-level business core courses; and industry-related fundamentals.

In addition to dedicated University faculty, the program will provide leading edge and real-world exposure from guest lecturers and instructors from industry/business leaders from the San Diego biotechnology community. In addition to the science, the program is geared to prepare its students for positions in marketing, sales, regulatory affairs, business development, product development, planning, scale-up, manufacturing and technical communication, within a biotech firm.

The Master of Biotechnology is a two-year cohort program comprised of 38-semester credit units. Designed to accommodate the schedules of working professionals, the program may be completed on a part-time basis and includes evening, weekend and online courses as part of the curricula.



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Now that the Master of Biotechnology has been officially approved by the Academic Senate, the University will begin working immediately to inform interested parties about the new program and to begin admitting students for a Fall Semester 2009 launch.

To learn more about this exciting new master's level degree program, visit www.csusm.edu/el/psm or contact Dr. Kern at alkern@csusm.edu or 760-750-8038.

About Extended Learning at California State University San Marcos

As the academic outreach arm of Cal State San Marcos, Extended Learning is a leading provider of professional and continuing education in San Diego North and Southwest Riverside Counties. Offering degree programs and both academic credit and noncredit professional enrichment courses and career-based certificate programs, we help individuals and organizations achieve their educational and training goals.

About California State University San Marcos

California State University San Marcos has become one of the fastest growing campuses in the CSU system. Providing access to a high quality education and preparing the leaders of tomorrow remain at the core of what we do. Cal State San Marcos embraces and symbolizes twenty-first century learning. We offer hands-on and collaborative learning experiences, cutting edge technology and academic programs relevant to the rapidly changing global environment. Our faculty engages in the latest research and other creative activities and our graduates are prepared to lead and compete in the digital age. Founded in 1989, CSU San Marcos is located on a 304-acre hillside overlooking the city of San Marcos. It is fifteen miles east of the ocean; just thirty miles north of downtown San Diego.

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