

**DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL**

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PR 16-28

December 5, 2016

**Cal Poly San Luis Obispo Police Department Receives ABC Outstanding Performance Award***The Department is honored for the work they have done to help prevent alcohol-related crime*

ABC Acting Director Ramona Prieto announced today that the Cal Poly San Luis Obispo (SLO) Police Department has been selected to receive the California Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) Outstanding Performance Award for the strong work they have done to battle alcohol-related crime through the ABC Grant Assistance Program (GAP).

The Cal Poly (SLO) Police Department is one of only two agencies in the State to receive the honor. Through the ABC grant program they identified an objective to mitigate alcohol related nuisances and crimes both on campus and the surrounding neighborhoods in the City of San Luis Obispo. University Police used a three prong approach of education, intervention and enforcement. Officers provided 24 educational presentations on the dangers of alcohol to first-year students living in student housing, alcohol related responsibility training to Greek organizations, and continuously worked with University Housing, the Dean of Students Office and the University Health Center regarding students who have shown a pattern of problem alcohol consumption. Heavy episodic or binge drinking continues to be a major campus health concern and effects the safety and education of students across the nation, including those who attend Cal Poly, SLO.

University Police also targeted problem premises with special emphasis on alcohol related nuisance abatement. The statistics for just 9 ABC enforcement operations during the 2015/16 school year resulted in 143 citations and 22 arrests where individuals were transported to jail.

A survey of the adjacent neighborhood resulted in an amazing 70% of those responding stating there was an improvement in the reduction of alcohol related incidents in the neighborhood where the majority of off campus students live. This crucial support has created a positive impact in campus prevention programs with concentrated efforts toward the education, prevention and enforcement of ABC laws. The Cal Poly SLO police believe the safer and healthier the campus community--the greater student success is.

ABC Director Ramona Prieto said "The Cal Poly SLO Police Department did outstanding work increasing protection for youth, addressing concerns brought to them from the community and sending a message to problem locations that they need to do a better job of complying with alcoholic beverage laws".

"The ABC Grant Assistance Program improves the quality of life in neighborhoods," Prieto said. "We've seen a real difference in the communities where the grant program resources have been invested." The funds were used to reduce the number of alcoholic beverage sales to minors, obviously intoxicated patrons, illegal solicitations of alcohol, and other criminal activities such as the sale and possession of illegal drugs.

The GAP Program was created in 1995 to strengthen partnerships between ABC and local law enforcement agencies. The program has distributed over \$46 million to local law enforcement to help improve compliance with alcoholic beverage laws since the program started. ABC is a Department of the Business, Consumer Services and Housing Agency.