Aug. 6, 2013

**New bins part of ‘Don’t Rush to Flush’ campaign**

Sacramento State continues to lead the way on sustainable practices. A new collection bin for unused and expired medications, located in The WELL’s pharmacy, is the first of six planned receptacles for prescription and over-the-counter drugs, pet medications and medicated ointments from the general public and the campus community.

Many people dispose of these items by flushing them down the toilet, where they go straight to wastewater treatment plants that cannot remove all pharmaceuticals. Or they toss them into the trash, leading to accidental poisoning of children and pets, and potential misuse/abuse.

Stockpiling in the medicine cabinet also is a concern. Prescription drug abuse is a rising problem: Studies show that most teens’ and young adults’ addiction to prescription drugs starts with getting them from often unwitting family members. Prescription drugs are now the second most abused type after marijuana.

The collection bins are courtesy of a Rose Foundation Grant via the California Product Stewardship Council, and the collaborative efforts of Sac State’s Office of Environmental Health and Safety, the University’s Sustainability team, and the Student Health and Counseling Services Pharmacy at The WELL as part of the Don’t Rush to Flush campaign.

Summer pharmacy hours are 7:30 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday-Thursday and 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Friday; fall and spring hours are 8:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Monday-Thursday and 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Friday.

Contact Janet Dumonchelle or the pharmacy staff at (916) 278-6040 with questions about collection. For media assistance, contact Sacramento State’s Public Affairs office at (916) 278-2776.

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