Sept. 6, 2013

**Campus panel to discuss human trafficking**

Sacramento State’s Community Engagement Center will present “Human Trafficking in the U.S: Realities of Modern Day Slavery” to commemorate Constitution Week. This year’s commemoration will feature a panel discussion from 11 a.m. to noon Wednesday, Sept. 18, in the University Union, Hinde Auditorium.

Panelists will include speaker Nilda Valmores from My Sister’s House and Sacramento State political science professors James DeShaw Rae and Andrew Hertzoff. Sacramento State senior Kay Oghogborie, who organized the discussion, will moderate.

Oghogborie’s interest in human trafficking was spurred by the fact that Sacramento is one of the top cities targeted by the FBI for human trafficking. Federal officials say Sacramento appeals to traffickers because of its large population of immigrants, many of whom are susceptible to exploitation. By virtue of its location on the Interstate 5 corridor at the junction of Interstate 80 and Highway 50, the city is a gateway to the Central Valley – and to major agricultural employers seeking field laborers.

An estimated 15,000-18,000 people are trafficked in the United States each year; 70 percent are women and 50 percent are children.

Oghogborie believes the scandal of human trafficking is no less relevant today than it was during the 19th century debate over slavery, which ultimately led to the passage of the 13th Amendment to the Constitution prohibiting slavery.

Constitution Week is an annual event designed to engage the campus in a dialogue exploring the U.S. Constitution and contemporary issues. For media assistance, contact Sacramento State’s Public Affairs office at (916) 278-6156.

– Alan Miller
amiller@csus.edu