Cal Poly Library Dean Hiram Davis to Retire

SAN LUIS OBISPO – Cal Poly Dean of Library Services Hiram Davis is retiring at the close of the academic year in June, ending a decade of service to Cal Poly and 35 years of leadership in academic libraries, both public and private.

Among Davis’ many accomplishments at Cal Poly is the development of the Kennedy Library’s Learning Commons, a resource devoted to fostering creative, flexible relationships among students and professors, resources and technology.

Prior to joining Cal Poly, Davis served as director of libraries at Michigan State University, dean of libraries at New Mexico State University, dean of libraries at the University of the Pacific, head of the undergraduate library at UCLA, and associate director of libraries at the University of Oklahoma.

In 1994, Davis was the first African-American to be appointed deputy librarian of congress. He has served on numerous boards, including AMIGOS, California Library Authority for Systems and Services, and the State Library of Michigan.

He was also active in the American Library Association including serving on the council, the Committee on Accreditation, Nomination Committee for President, President-elect and Council, Committee on Standards, and the Spectrum Jury Selection Committee. As a representative of the ALA and the Association of College as Research Libraries, in 1991 Davis testified before the U.S. House of Representatives’ Subcommittee on Post Secondary Education in support of the reauthorization of Title II of the Higher Education Act.

In addition, he served as chair of the ACRL Government Relations Committee; President’s Program Committee; College and Research Libraries Editorial Advisory Board; Planning Committee and the ACRL White Conference Task Force.

While working on his Ph.D. at the University of Michigan, he served as director of the Committee on Institutional Cooperation’s Library Science Doctoral Program for minority and disadvantaged students. In 1992 he received Forum Magazine’s African-American Pioneer Award.

Davis, of San Luis Obispo, Calif., earned a Bachelor of Science degree from Missouri Valley College in 1966, a Master of Library Science from Emporia State University in 1969, and a Ph.D. from the University of Michigan in 1984.

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