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Cal Poly Professor Returns from Fulbright Program in Tunisia

SAN LUIS OBISPO – Chris Carr, professor of business law and public policy for Cal Poly's Orfalea College of Business, recently returned from a three-week Fulbright program at the University of Sfax in Tunisia.

While there, he advised the university and the people in the Sfaxien region about entrepreneurship, innovation, faculty development and accreditation. The trip provided the Orfalea College of Business a unique opportunity to reach a broader audience of academic professionals.

"Professor Carr is an outstanding colleague and scholar," said Slim Choura, professor of mechanical engineering at the University of Sfax and the faculty member who helped bring Carr to Tunisia. "Chris offered some wise strategic advice and recommendations to help us get to the next level. We were impressed to learn of Cal Poly's striking successes and some of its best practices."

Carr was one of 400 American faculty and professionals chosen in 2011 to travel abroad as part of the Fulbright Specialists Program, an international educational exchange program sponsored by the U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs.

Designed to complement the Fulbright Scholar program, Fulbright Specialists are awarded the opportunity to participate in short-term academic activities lasting from two to six weeks. Recipients of the scholarships are chosen on the basis of academic or professional achievement to support the development of faculties, curriculums and institutional planning at post-secondary academic institutions around the globe.

"This is an exciting time to visit North Africa," Carr said. "Tunisia was the very first country in the Arab world to accomplish meaningful political reform, and it did so largely in a nonviolent manner. The positive eagerness and energy of all Tunisians I met to move forward and seize the rare political and economic opportunity before them is inspiring. It is also exciting to see the role that business will play in moving Tunisia forward."

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