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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Cal Poly Engineering Announces New Associate Dean

SAN LUIS OBISPO – Cal Poly College of Engineering has named Rakesh Goel to the newly created position of associate dean of research, graduate programs and partnerships. Prior to this, Goel served as the chair of Cal Poly’s Civil and Environmental Engineering Department.

As associate dean, Goel will help manage graduate and professional certification programs, create new opportunities for innovation and collaboration, and strengthen ties between the college and industry.

“Rakesh brings a great mix of experience in management, innovative programming and fundraising, as well as strong credentials in leadership, research and education,” said Debra Larson, dean of engineering. “With Rakesh in this new position, we believe it will lead to a new level of interdisciplinary thinking, collaboration, innovation, entrepreneurship and diversity throughout the college.”

Goel earned both a doctorate and master’s degree in structural engineering at UC Berkeley and holds a bachelor of technology degree from the Indian Institute of Technology, New Delhi. Goel’s research is focused in the areas of seismic safety, analysis and performance, and he has generated an extensive number of funded research projects in those areas.

He is a fellow of the American Society of Civil Engineering (ASCE) and a registered professional engineer in the state of California. He also serves as chair of the ASCE Committee on Seismic Effect and on the editorial board of Earthquake Spectra, the professional journal of the Earthquake Engineering Research Institute.

His excellence in teaching has been recognized by students, colleagues and industry with awards that include the Northrop Grumman Research and Development Award, the Professor of the Year award from the Cal Poly Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers, and the Norman Medal and Huber Research Prize, both from ASCE.

In addition to serving as chair of the college’s second-largest department for four years, Goel has held numerous leadership roles at Cal Poly, including serving as chairman of the college’s Task Force on Workload Relief for Faculty Engaged in Scholarly Activities; co-chairman of the department’s Industrial Advisory Board; chairman of the department’s Tenured Faculty Committee; and member of the university’s Academic Senate.

“Cal Poly Engineering has a highly successful record in student success,” said Goel. “My job will be to help maintain a state-of-the-art presence in every discipline, in our approach to applied research and in our economic model.”

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