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[News](#)

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California Polytechnic State University

June 23, 2003

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **Cal Poly College of Agriculture Names Pedersen as Associate Dean**

SAN LUIS OBISPO - Cal Poly's College of Agriculture has named Professor Mary E. Pedersen as its new associate dean.

Pedersen has been serving as interim head of the college's Food Science and Nutrition Department. As associate dean, Pedersen will be responsible for overseeing undergraduate programs in the College of Agriculture, as well as the college's recruiting efforts. She will also oversee faculty development programs.

"The college is fortunate to be able to call on Mary to work with our undergraduate programs," said Wehner. "She has excellent relationships with many members of the campus community, and she will be a great representative for the College of Agriculture in everything she does."

Pedersen earned her doctorate at UCLA and has taught diet therapy, nutrition in aging, basic nutrition and lipid nutrition during her career at Cal Poly. She became the interim department head for Food Science and Nutrition in January 2002. In 1992, she was a recipient of the Cal Poly Distinguished Teacher Award.

In her new position, Pedersen will be shepherding the education of students in the fourth-largest undergraduate agricultural education program in the nation. The Cal Poly College of Agriculture has more than 3,700 students and offers 17 degree programs. The college awards an average of 650 baccalaureate degrees each year, nearly half of all baccalaureate agriculture degrees granted in California.

Pedersen joins Associate Dean Mark Shelton in the administration office at the college. Shelton is responsible for overseeing research and graduate programs in the College of Agriculture, as well as the college farm.

-30-

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