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[News](#)

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California Polytechnic State University

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Cal Poly Appoints Research Chemist To Endowed Chair in Coatings

SAN LUIS OBISPO - A research chemist with 15 years' experience in industry is the first person to hold a new endowed professorship in the polymers and coatings program in Cal Poly's Chemistry and Biochemistry Department.

Raymond Fernando, who previously was a lead research chemist for the Corporate Science and Technology Center of Air Products and Chemicals Inc. in Allentown, Pa., was named this summer to the Arthur C. Edwards Endowed Chair for Coatings Technology and Ecology.

The Edwards Chair, established with \$1 million in gifts from 21 donors in the polymers and coatings industry, was the first such position to be fully funded at Cal Poly.

Fernando has extensive knowledge of the technology of water-based coatings. His doctoral work at North Dakota State University concentrated in the study of coatings rheology - changes in the form and flow of coating materials. He is currently the chair of the Technical Program Committee of the Federation of Societies for Coatings Technology.

The professorship is named for Arthur C. Edwards, co-founder of Dunn-Edwards Corp. Edwards' son Ken and the Dunn-Edwards company gave the primary gift of \$500,000 to establish the chair in Arthur Edwards' honor.

Fernando will help lead the development of Cal Poly's new master's degree program in polymers and coatings science, which began this fall, and will be involved in expanding the undergraduate polymers and coatings program, which began 14 years ago.

He is also working to establish a variety of student internships in the coatings industry with companies as diverse as those that produce architectural coatings for homes and those that create nanoscale coating layers for computer chips. He also hopes to attract major new applied research projects from industry through the Chemistry and Biochemistry Department's Western Coatings Technology Center.

In addition to its degree programs, Cal Poly offers several summer short courses for industry representatives. A new winter short course will be offered at the San Luis Obispo campus Feb 3-7.

For more information about the polymers and coatings program, call Cary Bowdich, director of advancement for the College of Science and Mathematics, at (805) 756-5713.

- 30 -

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