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Cal Poly Appoints New Director of Government and Community Relations

SAN LUIS OBISPO – Cal Poly has named Justin Wellner as its director for government and community relations.

Wellner will join Cal Poly in February, working in the University Advancement Division to advise campus administrators on policy matters and promote awareness and goodwill among the university's governmental representatives at the community, state and federal levels. He is currently serving as the government relations director for CSU Monterey Bay.

“Justin’s background and experience at the federal, state and community levels will be an asset to Cal Poly,” said Deborah A.W. Read, Cal Poly’s vice president for university advancement.

“Cal Poly is an accomplished institution and I am pleased that Justin will represent us throughout the country to advance the university.

“We take our community relationships seriously, and I am especially pleased that Justin will represent Cal Poly in our local region. We look forward to continuing to cultivate partnerships on the Central Coast.”

Wellner has been with CSU Monterey Bay since January 2011, serving as policy analyst and chief liaison between the university and its representatives. Previously, he held a number of government relations-oriented positions in Washington, D.C., with Van Scoyoc Associates’ Education Team, The Business-Higher Education Forum, and the office of former Massachusetts Senator Edward Kennedy.

“Cal Poly plays a unique and inspiring role in providing the state and national workforces with the bright, creative professionals they so greatly need,” Wellner said. “I’m excited to be a part of the San Luis Obispo community and to represent a wonderful university in this robust community.”

Wellner earned a bachelor’s degree in rhetoric and media studies from Willamette University in Salem, Ore., in 1998. He earned master’s degrees in public policy and higher education from the University of Michigan in 2003.

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