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Cal Poly Names Recipients for Provost Leadership Award for Partnership in Philanthropy

SAN LUIS OBISPO — Cal Poly has named two winners of the 2013 Provost Leadership Award for Partnership in Philanthropy in recognition of superior achievement in fundraising.

This year's winners are Ignatios Vakalis, head of the Computer Science and Software Engineering Department, and David Wehner, interim vice president for strategic initiatives and former Dean of the College of Agriculture, Food and Environmental Sciences (CAFES).

Both award winners were cited for their "leadership, hard work and enthusiasm in supporting Cal Poly's mission through successfully advocating and securing private support" for each of their respective areas.

"Ignatios and David have each generated extraordinary contributions to Cal Poly," said Provost Kathleen Enz Finken. "Their tireless and selfless efforts will have an immediate positive impact on student success while also enhancing Cal Poly's national reputation for excellence."

Vakalis was singled out for his role in framing a new initiative in cybersecurity, which resulted in a \$150,000 gift from Northrop Grumman to develop a state-of-the-art cyber lab and collaborative cyber platform.

He was also praised for championing the university's Big Data strategic initiative fundraising efforts that attracted \$100,000 from alumni in 2013. Vakalis also helped raise more than \$100,000 from alumni to develop and equip a cutting-edge Game Development Laboratory and led a \$100,000 matching-gift campaign to develop and equip a Human-Computer Interaction (HCI) Laboratory, the most modern HCI lab in the San Luis Obispo area.

Wehner secured \$20 million in gifts and pledges for the college during fiscal year 2012-13, an amount that was equal to nearly half of the university's total of \$43 million. He also was cited for his role in obtaining \$8 million in pledges for the Agriculture Technology Center and \$1 million in pledges for the Wine and Viticulture Innovation Center.

Wehner facilitated the development of the Oreggia Family Foundation, which has provided more than \$5 million in direct cash gifts and more than \$3.5 million in pledges to CAFES. He helped foster more than \$1 million in donor sponsorships for the Center of Science and Mathematics.

He is credited with creating the CAFES Learn by Doing endowment in which 10 donors each pledged \$100,000, generating \$1 million to be used to match donations by others who would then have an endowment for the benefit of the college in their name. To date, more than 30 individuals have contributed.

And finally, Wehner was commended for developing key relationships with such leading organizations as the Leprino Co. and the California Strawberry Commission, both of which have made major gifts to the university.

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