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Cal Poly's College of Architecture & Environmental Design Names Assistant Dean of Advancement

SAN LUIS OBISPO –Natalie Schaefer has been named the assistant dean of advancement for the College of Architecture & Environmental Design. Schaefer's responsibilities will include fundraising, marketing and communications, special events, and alumni relations for the college.

"Her blend of experience as an educator, administrator and businesswoman make her an excellent choice to lead the advancement team in the College of Architecture & Environmental Design," said CAED Dean Christine Theodoropoulos.

Schaefer joined Cal Poly in 2013 as the director of Corporate & Foundation Partnerships. Before joining Cal Poly, Schaefer worked in community relations for Pacific Gas and Electric Co., facilitating grant awards and employee engagement.

"I'm delighted to lead the CAED's development team and work with such talented and dedicated faculty, staff and students," said Schaefer.

"Natalie's background and experience, coupled with the college's dedicated leadership, will provide wonderful opportunities to enhance the CAED and the students served," said Deborah Read, vice president for University Advancement and CEO of the Cal Poly Foundation.

As a fundraiser for more than 15 years, she helped raise millions to fund three career facilities for Paso Robles Public Schools. She also directed two local nonprofits, developing programs and conducting outreach for the Paso Robles Children's Museum and the American Red Cross

Schaefer spent more than 20 years in K-12 education, first as a science teacher, then in district administration running programs and conducting professional development activities focused on career education, service learning and environmental education. She was also an informal educator, serving as the seasonal interpretive ranger in Lassen County for the Monterey Peninsula Regional Park District. While working for the district, she earned her master's degree in environmental sciences, which included a habitat restoration project that engaged nearly 400 children in gathering, propagating and planting native plants in Carmel Valley, Calif.

Schaefer also earned an appraiser's license and a broker's license, and continues to manage her family's real estate investments.

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