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Cal Poly Appoints Timothy Kearns as New CIO

SAN LUIS OBISPO -- Cal Poly President Warren J. Baker announced today the appointment of Timothy J. Kearns, an associate professor and current chair of the Computer Science Department at Cal Poly, as the university’s new vice provost for information technology and chief information officer.

“Tim is uniquely qualified for the position by bringing the perspective and experiences acquired in both industry and as a faculty member. He enjoys broad support within the campus community,” President Baker said in announcing the appointment today.

Kearns will provide leadership and strategic direction for the delivery of technology services to meet the teaching and learning mission of the university.

Kearns will begin his duties on August 1, succeeding Jerry Hanley, who has served in the position for over eight years.

Kearns has held two separate faculty appointments at Cal Poly. After serving for two years in 1985, he left Cal Poly to work as a software architect for both AT&T Bell Laboratories and Hewlett-Packard. He then served as a principal for Applied Decision Analysis, Inc., a firm specializing in market research and computer models for Fortune 500 companies. He returned to Cal Poly in 1999 and has served as department chair since 2001.

Kearns earned his doctorate and a master’s degree in mathematics from the University of Notre Dame, and a baccalaureate from Boston College. He and his wife, Gigi Nickas, M.D., reside in San Luis Obispo and are in the process of adopting two children from Ethiopia.

The vice provost for information technology and chief information officer reports to the provost and is responsible to the president on matters of university policy and planning related to information technology infrastructure and support services.