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Contact: Matt Lazier

805-756-7109; mlazier@calpoly.edu

Cal Poly Announces New Dean of the College of Agriculture, Food & Environmental Sciences

SAN LUIS OBISPO — Andrew Thulin — an alumnus of Cal Poly's animal science department and 16-year veteran of its faculty — has been appointed dean of the university's College of Agriculture, Food & Environmental Sciences.

Thulin has served as interim dean of the college since July 2013. Prior to that, he led the college's Animal Science Department for 15 years.

"Andy brings a proven track record of successful leadership and strong relationships with industry partners to this role," Cal Poly President Jeffrey D. Armstrong said. "He knows the power of Learn by Doing from the perspective of a student and a faculty member. His background makes him uniquely qualified to lead the College of Agriculture, Food & Environmental Sciences into the future."

Thulin leads a college with 184 faculty members and an annual budget of \$19.5 million. Each year, the college's 10 departments offer undergraduate and master's degrees in 16 majors and 22 minors to about 4,000 students.

"Andy understands the critical role the College of Agriculture, Food & Environmental Sciences must play in providing the leaders of tomorrow for the vital and increasingly complex global agriculture and food production industries," said Kathleen Enz Finken, Cal Poly's provost and executive vice president for academic affairs. "His talents for strategic planning and developing beneficial alliances will ensure that Cal Poly continues to produce the creative problem-solvers our workforce demands."

Thulin, a 1977 graduate from Cal Poly, has enjoyed a career in the private sector and higher education. His experience includes a three-way appointment in extension, research and teaching at Michigan State University as well as working for seven years as manager of worldwide technology deployment for Cargill, Inc., before he returned to Cal Poly 1998.

Under Thulin's 15-year leadership, the Animal Sciences Department implemented a new strategic vision that led to a significant expansion of facilities, faculty and staff. Graduation rates increased to nearly 90 percent, and more than \$16 million was raised for new laboratories and the construction of a new Beef Center, Animal Nutrition Center and Meat Processing Center, among other buildings.

"Successful leadership is all about building a culture of collaboration and shared vision," Thulin said. "I'm looking forward to continuing our efforts to make sure the College of Agriculture, Food & Environmental Sciences is a place where students, faculty and staff feel empowered and invested in achieving excellence every day."

Thulin earned his master's and doctorate degrees in nutrition at Kansas State University.

He succeeds David Wehner, who served as dean of the College of Agriculture, Food

& Environmental Sciences from 2002 to 2013. Wehner, who has spent the past year serving as Cal Poly's interim vice president for strategic initiatives, will retire at the end of the academic year in June.

Under Wehner's leadership, the College of Agriculture, Food and Environmental Sciences led all of Cal Poly's colleges in the total amount of money raised over the past few years, enabling it to significantly expand and strengthen its curriculum.

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Phone: 805-756-1111