



Office of Public Affairs
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News Release

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Cal Poly Pomona Appoints New Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

Dr. denBoer of City University of New York Joins University Aug. 14

POMONA, Calif. — June 25, 2008 — After a national search that identified several outstanding candidates, Cal Poly Pomona President Michael Ortiz has named Dr. Marten L. denBoer to serve as the new university Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs. He will begin Aug. 14.

Dr. denBoer, who has served as associate provost at Queens College of the City University of New York (CUNY) since 2001, has been successful in raising academic standards, creating and developing new scholarly programs and expanding technological resources and infrastructure.

"I am very honored to join the dynamic intellectual community at Cal Poly Pomona," denBoer said. "These are exciting times for the university. I look forward to working with President Ortiz, the faculty, staff and administration to develop and implement a new strategic plan, advancing the university's mission to link scholarship and learning for the success of future generations of students."

The new Provost has an extensive background in science, having served as the chair of the physics department at Hunter College of CUNY and as a faculty member at Hunter and at Polytechnic Institute of New York.

"The elevation of our academic opportunities, through the strategic plan and comprehensive campaign, require strong leadership in the provost position," adds President Ortiz. "Marten joins the university family with impeccable leadership and scholarly credentials, ones that will readily transfer to Cal Poly Pomona. He will be a valuable asset to our community for many years to come."

The selection was the culmination of a yearlong search. In the summer of 2007, former Provost

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Tomás Morales became president of City University of New York, College of Staten Island. Since then, Herman Lujan has served as interim provost.

Of Dutch extraction, denBoer earned a bachelor's degree in physics and mathematics at Calvin College in Grand Rapids, Mich., and master's and PhD degrees in condensed matter physics at the University of Maryland, College Park.

As associate provost at Queens College, denBoer assisted in the development of several new bachelor's and master's degree programs, including business administration, creative writing, neuroscience, graphic design, applied environmental geosciences and education. He also strengthened student advising and support, increasing enrollment and raising year-to-year retention rates and graduation rates to the highest levels in the CUNY system.

During his tenure, student enrollment grew from 15,000 to more than 18,000. The six-year freshmen graduation rate rose to nearly 60 percent, among the highest of any urban public commuter school. He also expanded the college's weekend services, including financial aid, academic advising, food services and child care. In the past five years, enrollment in the Weekend College has doubled.

As a scholar, denBoer has published more than 70 scientific articles and has presented at national and international conferences, universities and research laboratories. His research has been funded by the US Department of Energy, the National Science Foundation and the National Institutes of Health.

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