New dean for Engineering and Computer Science

Lorenzo M. Smith, currently associate dean and professor at the School of Engineering and Computer Science at Oakland University in Rochester, Mich., has been appointed dean of Sacramento State’s College of Engineering and Computer Science, effective Friday, Aug. 1.

Today’s announcement follows a nationwide search that “attracted a very competitive pool of applicants,” says Frederika “Fraka” Harmsen, Sac State provost and vice president for Academic Affairs.

“Dr. Smith brings more than two decades of outstanding experience in higher education and industry. His background includes strategic planning, fundraising, budget management, student support initiatives, and community and international partnerships,” Harmsen says.

“I am confident he will build on the College of Engineering and Computer Science’s strong connections to the regional community and create greater opportunities for our students and faculty.”

Smith joined Oakland University’s faculty in 2000 and since has won teaching awards and served as the principal investigator on multimillion-dollar research projects. His experience includes a prolific scholarly record and extensive program management experience.

He earned his bachelor’s degree in mechanical engineering from the University of Illinois, Champaign-Urbana, and his master’s degree in mechanical engineering from Wayne State University. He earned his doctorate in engineering mechanics from Michigan State University.

Ramzi Mahmood, who has been serving as interim dean of the College of Engineering and Computer Science, will be the full-time director of Sacramento State’s Office of Water Programs.

Harmsen says the OWP is a key center in meeting her goals of promoting faculty research and connecting the University’s strong programs, such as water research, with external funding opportunities.
“The OWP has enjoyed great success under Dr. Mahmood’s leadership, and I applaud his service as interim dean in ECS,” Harmsen says. “He will assist me in expanding the scope of the OWP as we advance Sacramento State’s international stature in water education, policy and research.”

For media assistance, contact Sacramento State’s Office of Public Affairs at (916) 278-6156. — Dixie Reid

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