



April 13, 2022

To SUNY Poly Faculty, Students, and Staff:

I write to you today to provide an update regarding the Interim Provost position. Dr. Steve Schneider has fulfilled this role for the past four years, and I am most grateful for his dedication and service during this extended period. Dr. Schneider will officially return to his faculty position upon completion of the spring 2022 commencement exercises.

In anticipation of this, I had asked Professor of Mathematics Dr. Zora Thomova to consider the Interim Provost position and began to engage governance groups across both campuses on this important appointment. This engagement included a presentation to faculty and staff, as well as a subsequent one week period in which feedback on Dr. Thomova's candidacy was solicited. I would like to extend my appreciation to the large number of community members who provided such feedback, distributed across our faculty and staff. As one would hope with an important appointment such as this, the large majority of those comments received were supportive of the appointment.

I am therefore pleased to announce that Dr. Thomova has accepted my offer to join SUNY Poly's leadership team as Interim Provost, effective May 16. Serving as an assistant professor beginning in 1998, she later became professor in 2011 and then Interim Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences from 2014 to 2016. She established the process for students to participate in SUNY-wide study abroad programs, leading the initiative since 2017 as the Director of Global Programs. Dr. Thomova also served on and chaired numerous committees, and was a co-chair of the SUNY Poly Governance Council. Her scholarship in mathematical physics is published in international journals and she co-organized several conferences. She received the Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Faculty Service in 2021 and the Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Teaching in 2007.

Dr. Thomova brings a depth of knowledge about SUNY Poly's unique academic offerings and has strong insight into the scholarly activities that take place across our campuses. As Interim Provost, she will be responsible for overseeing academic affairs across SUNY Poly, to include scholarship, accreditation, assessment, distance learning, institutional research, the library, registrar, and student success. In addition, the Deans of each of SUNY Poly's five colleges and graduate school form the core of the Interim Provost's leadership team. The academic fiscal balance of the institution involves close partnership of the Interim Provost with the institution's administrative leadership, in order to foster increasing academic excellence and accountability.

I look forward to working with Dr. Thomova to direct the institution's academic operations and further facilitate academic excellence as well as accountability. I hope you will offer her a warm welcome to this new role.

Sincerely,

Dr. Tod A. Laursen
Acting President
SUNY Polytechnic Institute