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NPS Announces the Appointment of New Provost

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Article By: *Kenneth A. Stewart*



Dr. Douglas A. Hensler, an accomplished academic and industry leader most recently serving as dean of the Wichita State University W. Frank Barton School of Business, has been selected to serve as the 14th provost of the Naval Postgraduate School.

Dr. Douglas A. Hensler has been selected to serve as the 14th provost of the Naval Postgraduate School the university announced April 11.

"Serving as Chief Academic Officer at NPS is a true honor and Janie and I are looking forward to our move and the challenges to come," said Hensler. "NPS is a very unique graduate institution and the opportunity to serve in a role supporting our national security is one that we cherish."

Hensler is an accomplished academic and industry leader with deep ties to both education and the global business community. He served on the Board of Directors of the Wichita Business Coalition for Health Care, the UK-based GSE Research advisory board, and several editorial boards. He also has a lengthy background with the Navy, and notes the experience should prove valuable in joining NPS.

"While in industry, I was involved with Navy nuclear programs supporting aircraft carriers, destroyers and submarines as well as a defense satellite launch vehicle," said Hensler. "This preparation provides not only a familiarity with the Navy, but a deep-seated understanding of the importance of excellence in what we do at NPS."

Secretary of the Navy Ray Mabus welcomed Hensler to the prestigious institution, and added that he looked forward to his leadership for NPS.

"For more than a century, the Naval Postgraduate School has provided high-quality, relevant and unique advanced education and research opportunities that increase the combat effectiveness of the Naval Services, other Armed Forces of the U.S. and our partners, and enhance our national security," said Secretary of the Navy Ray Mabus. "I appreciate Admiral Tighe's leadership during this time of transition and welcome Dr. Hensler as we begin the next chapter in this storied institution's history."

Hensler holds a Ph.D. in finance from the University of Washington, an MBA from the University of Portland and a BSE in Aerospace and Mechanical Sciences from Princeton University. He comes to NPS from Wichita State University where he has served for the past five years as dean of the W. Frank Barton School of Business.

While at Wichita State, Hensler led a corrective action to secure reaccreditation from the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business. He also successfully led an effort to secure increased funding for the business school and led a cultural transition laced with confidence and optimism. Despite his many accomplishments, Hensler views his upcoming NPS assignment as a major career milestone.

"The NPS family includes some of the greatest minds in the world that are being applied to keeping our nation safe and secure. The opportunity to work with these colleagues is not just an honor, it is also one that brings to bear the totality of my career," said Hensler.

"Our national security is heavily reliant on well-educated military officers and on our ability as a nation to innovate. These are key areas where NPS, a category-of-one institution, excels," continued Hensler.

NPS Interim President Rear Adm. Jan E. Tighe expressed her appreciation to the members of the Provost Search Committee for their diligence and dedication in finding the right person to serve NPS and the Navy.

"All of the candidates for provost were leaders in their field, which made the decision to select a provost challenging," said Tighe. "Your efforts have moved NPS another step closer to making this institution a leaner and more effective organization."

Tighe also thanked the campus community for its role in the successful provost search.

"The campus community's sustained involvement throughout the search has been a crucial ingredient in the successful effort to recruit a new provost. Dr. Hensler's background and management experience will no doubt contribute significantly to enhancing a NPS' effectiveness as, together, we continue to pursue our educational mission," she added.

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