



CAL POLY

Office of the President

Dear campus community,

I'm excited to share with you that after a national search, I have appointed Carter Henderson as Cal Poly's next director of athletics, effective Oct. 13.

Carter is currently deputy athletic director for external relations at Stanford University. He brings deep experience in intercollegiate athletics from Stanford, where he has held several leadership roles over more than four years, as well as a 10-year stint as an associate athletic director at the University of Washington in Seattle and nearly five years at Jacksonville University Athletics, where he began his career.

Carter brings vision and strategic thinking along with broad expertise in operations, people management, communications and fundraising — a mix of talent and experience that will build on the momentum of our already successful athletics program and help our student-athletes, coaches and employees reach even greater heights in the future.

Our athletics program comprises 19 NCAA teams, competing mainly in the Big West Conference, playing football in the Big Sky Conference, and focusing on developing and supporting more than 500 student-athletes to be their best in competition and in the classroom.

Our student-athletes excel in the classroom, with a 93 percent graduation rate and a cumulative GPA of 3.25 as of Spring 2025. And in competition, Cal Poly teams have captured nearly 50 conference championships, including earning a Big West Commissioner's cup in 2023-24 after earning an historic five conference titles on the year.

We conducted a national search for our next director of athletics, and the level of talent we saw in the candidates who expressed interest was very high. I offered Carter the role after hearing positive feedback from our search committee and many others who met him during the recruitment process.

Please join me in welcoming Carter, his wife Lindsey, and their two children to our Cal Poly community. I'm excited for you all to meet them in the coming weeks.

You can read more about Carter's appointment [online here](#).

Carter succeeds Don Oberhelman, who announced his retirement earlier this year after more than 14 years leading Cal Poly Athletics. In that time, no other university earned as many Big West championships as Cal Poly. Don has fostered a culture of athletic and academic success that we look to build on moving forward.

Please join me in thanking Don for his dedication to our university community and our student-athletes.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey D. Armstrong
President