



Contact: Arielle Torrez
Marketing Development Coordinator
astorrez@cpp.edu

July 8, 2021
For Immediate Release

**Appointment of Shari Benson as Chief Human Resources Officer for the
Cal Poly Pomona Foundation**

The Cal Poly Pomona Foundation is pleased to announce that after an intensive search, Mrs. Shari Benson has been appointed Chief Human Resources Officer (CHRO), effective July 26, 2021. In this role, she will be responsible for oversight of payroll, employee development, human resources functions and development, and delivery and administration of organizational policies, procedures and programs. She is reporting directly to Jared Ceja, Chief Executive Officer of the Cal Poly Pomona Foundation.

Established in 1966, the Foundation provides a wide range of essential services for the campus community, including Dining Services, the Bronco Bookstore, faculty/staff housing, University Village housing, the Kellogg West Conference Center and Hotel, commercial real estate activities and Innovation Village. Additional support includes services provided to The Farm Store, Philanthropic Foundation, Sponsored Programs and more. The Foundation is also the largest employer of students at Cal Poly Pomona, providing invaluable work experience to approximately 1,700 students each year.

Mrs. Benson brings the Foundation admirable experience as she has worked in the Human Resources field for over 20 years, including experience in Regional Human Resources at Office Depot, Director, Human Resources/Training at Home Shopping Network and Human Resources Director at Valley Power Systems. In addition, she also holds SHRM-SCP, SPHR and CPSP certifications. Her passion for Human Resources is prominent, and she has dedicated her career to her passion by serving on the Executive Board of the San Gabriel Valley Employer Advisory Council, a non-profit to educate Human Resources professionals and small businesses in human resources practices during her free time. Furthermore, Shari is an Adjunct Instructor at the University of La Verne, teaching Human Resources and Business Communication courses.

Shari Benson is a graduate of Cal Poly Pomona and received her Bachelor's degree in Business Administration with an emphasis in Human Resource Management. After graduating from CPP, Shari continued her relationship with the university and served on several alumni committees, volunteered at Cal Poly Pomona's Alumni Professor for a Day Program and mentored Cal Poly Pomona students. She went on to receive her Master's degree in Organizational Leadership from Chapman University.

Special acknowledgment is due to the hiring committee for vetting such a large pool of qualified candidates: David Laxamana (Chair), Joanne Matthew, Randall Townsend, Aaron Neilson, Clint Aase, Randy Wallace, Jr., Jenny Dennis and Alex Hernandez.

###