

SPOTLIGHTS

Rogan Kersh Appointed Provost and Professor at Wake Forest

Wake Forest has appointed **Rogan Kersh** as the University's new provost and professor of political science. A Wake Forest alumnus, Kersh currently serves as the associate dean of academic affairs and professor of public policy at New York University's Robert F. Wagner Graduate School of Public Service.

Kersh will assume his new duties as Wake Forest's chief academic officer with responsibility for supervising and administering the academic programs and plans of the university's Reynolda Campus this summer.



Kersh will report directly to Wake Forest president Nathan O. Hatch. He will supervise the deans of the undergraduate College, the Schools of Business, the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, the School of Law, the School of Divinity and the Library.

"Wake Forest was my first academic home," Kersh said. "During my undergraduate years and regular return visits to campus I developed an abiding devotion to the university; its faculty, students, and staff; and its traditions. I look forward to returning to my alma mater in a professional capacity."

After graduating with a BA in political science from Wake Forest in 1986, Kersh earned two masters' degrees and a PhD in political science from Yale University, where he also began his teaching career. He taught political science and public administration at the Maxwell School of Syracuse University for 10 years and has served in his current role at NYU since 2006. He also studies the US health care policy system and is a nationally recognized expert on obesity. He is currently part of NYU faculty teams holding two separate National Institutes of Health (NIH) research grants on obesity politics.

In addition to his professional credentials, Kersh brings to the position longstanding connections to Wake Forest. He served for more than a decade on the selection committee for the Reynolds, Carswell, and other named merit scholarships, traveling to Wake Forest each spring semester for a four-day selection event. Kersh also served as an informal mentor to several of the scholar recipients during and after their time at Wake Forest, as well as graduates who enrolled in masters programs at NYU, Syracuse, and Yale. "The appointment of a provost is one of the most important decisions that a University president must make," said Hatch. "Rogan brings recent and relevant leadership experience and a commitment to preserving the core values of Wake Forest while growing in new directions. He is a dynamic leader who has used his talents for teaching, strategic planning and administrative management to the benefit of every university he has served. I could not be more pleased to welcome him back to Wake Forest."

Kersh is active in the wider public-policy and political-science profession. He has worked with NYU colleagues to advance social justice and diversity issues at the National Association of Schools of Public Affairs and Administration (NASPAA). Two years ago he was elected as a Fellow of the National Academy of Public Administration. Kersh currently serves as president of APSA's organized section on health politics and policy.

Sonenshein Named Executive Director of PBI

Raphael J. Sonenshein has been named executive director of the Edmund G. "Pat" Brown Institute (PBI) of Public Affairs at California State University, Los Angeles.

Sonenshein began his tenure at PBI in February 2012, replacing Jaime Regalado, who retired after heading the Institute since 1991. The Institute is a nonpartisan public policy center dedicated to sustaining the vision and legacy of former California Governor Pat Brown through convening public policy forums, engaging multisector stakeholders and diverse communities, and conducting policy research and community-driven initiatives.

"PBI is a jewel, one that reflects the vision of the great governor for whom it is named, and the work of the many people who built and have sustained it for more than two decades," said Sonenshein. "I hope to further expand the Institute's impact on the daily lives of the people who live in our neighborhoods, our cities, our region and our state, and on the public policies that affect us all. For me, it's the opportunity of a lifetime."

Sonenshein was chair of the Division of Politics, Administration and Justice at Cal State Fullerton (CSUF), a professor of political science and public administration, and the director of the Division's Center for Public Policy. He taught at CSUF since 1982.

Sonenshein is also sought after as a political expert by many local and national media outlets including CNN, NPR, KPCC, and KCRW.

Sonenshein received a BA in public policy from the Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs at Princeton University and a MA and PhD in political science from Yale University.