



News Release

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Puszynski Named Interim President at School of Mines

PIERRE, S.D. – Dr. Jan A. Puszynski (YAWN push-IN'-skee), vice president for research at South Dakota School of Mines & Technology, has been named interim president at School of Mines. Puszynski begins his duties immediately and will serve in a temporary capacity until a national search for the next president of the engineering and science university is concluded and a new president is appointed.

Heather Wilson, president at the School of Mines since 2013, submitted her resignation effective today (Wednesday) after her Senate confirmation this week as the next United States Air Force Secretary.

Puszynski has been educating undergraduate and graduate students at SD Mines for nearly 26 years, joining the faculty in 1991 as a professor of chemical engineering. During his tenure in Rapid City, he has established a national and international reputation in materials research and received several multi-million-dollar research awards.

“We are very pleased to have Dr. Puszynski assume this important interim appointment,” said Regents President Bob Sutton. “His long tenure on the Mines’ campus and familiarity with the university’s mission, programs, and students gives the regents a great deal of confidence that the campus is in good hands while a presidential search proceeds.”

Since 1996, Puszynski has been the principal investigator on several research and development projects funded by the Naval Surface Warfare Center and other Department of Defense organizations. His expertise is in reaction engineering, energetic materials, materials science, and mathematical modeling of reactive systems.

A presidential search process at School of Mines is underway. Contingent on a successful search, a new president will be appointed this fall to begin duties on or around January 1, 2018.

Prior to his time at School of Mines, Puszynski worked as a research professor in the chemical engineering department at State University of New York at Buffalo. His undergraduate and master’s degrees in chemical engineering are from the Technical University in Wroclaw, Poland. His Ph.D. in chemical engineering was awarded by the Institute of Chemical Technology in Prague.