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By Jim Steinberg

HEADLINE: Keppler to direct Maddy Institute at Fresno State

Mark J. Keppler, who recently directed Fresno State's MBA program, has been named director of the university's Kenneth L. Maddy Institute for Public Affairs.

He succeeds Jeanette Ishii, who took a job in April as a deputy county administrator with Fresno County.

Keppler, a lawyer, will serve as the Maddy Institute's chief executive. He will manage the agency, supervise the seeking of grants and other funding, prepare and administer the institute's budget, coordinate the intern scholars program and recommend the appointment of the Maddy professor for California State University, Fresno.

The institute, established in 1999, received a \$1 million endowment from the state and was named in honor of the late state senator from Fresno. Its mission is to elevate government performance and citizen participation through leadership education.

The institute has had three Maddy professors: the late Harold H. Haak, former Fresno State president; Dan Whitehurst, a former Fresno mayor; and Jim Costa, a former state senator.

The Maddy Institute recently reorganized as a nonprofit corporation, said Don Jackson, chairman of the institute's board of directors, and Keppler will expand its activities.

Keppler was director of graduate programs at the university's Craig School of Business from 1998-2003 and has been a professor of human resource management at the Craig School since 1987.

He has served as a mediator for the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission and an arbitrator with the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service. He also has served as a judge pro tem with Fresno County Superior Court.

He described the purpose of the Maddy Institute: "We are there to assist elected officials and managers so they can do a better job representing their communities."

The institute works in three areas, Keppler said:

Citizenship: engaging students of all ages to prepare for leadership and inspiring them to follow Maddy's example of active citizenship.

Public service: improving the efficiency and effectiveness of governmental organizations.

Policy research: analysis relied on by elected officials and public managers because it is based on "nonpartisan, interdisciplinary, fact-driven analysis of the issues."

Keppler was appointed by university President John Welty and will start his new job June 1.

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