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PORTA NAMED ACTING DIRECTOR OF RESEARCH AND SPONSORED PROGRAMS AT KEAN UNIVERSITY

UNION, N.J. – Dr. Angela Porta has been successfully motivating students at Kean University since her 1995 arrival as a faculty member. In her new capacity, the popular biology professor will still be a motivator – only now she will also be inspiring her colleagues. Recently named as acting director for the Office of Research & Sponsored Programs, Division of Institutional Advancement, Porta will oversee all governmental grant and external funding activity at the University from the pre-award planning and proposal phase to post-award management. Her role also includes coordinating all research and scholarly activities, as well as the associated compliance and integrity issues.

Porta earned a Bachelor of Arts in Biological Sciences from Douglass College at Rutgers University and a Master of Science in Biochemistry from Fairleigh Dickinson University. In 1984 she earned a Ph.D. in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology from the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey.

A 2004 winner of the Presidential Excellence Award for Distinguished Scholarship, Porta has taught courses in human anatomy and physiology, cell physiology and the senior seminar in biology, and mentored students in independent research. She has also been an active member of Kean's Women into Science and Technology Program.

Her research and mentoring interests were advanced further thanks to competitive grants that she received from the National Institutes of Health. These funds made it possible for Porta to establish a fully operational biotechnology research laboratory on campus in which she has trained more than 50 undergraduate research trainees in original discovery.

Porta is eager to further enhance the University's already successful external funding and research programs. "This is a wonderful opportunity for me to utilize my experience as a scientist as well as a grant project director and research mentor," said Porta. "The leadership and faculty here at Kean are second to none, and I look forward to embracing their talents and collaborating with them to forward grant activity and research initiatives – particularly those which are student-focused."

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