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WEST LAFAYETTE, Ind. - Angela Phillips Diaz has been named the new managing director of Purdue University's Global Policy Research Institute.

Diaz will be responsible for the daily activities of the institute, also known as GPRI, which will leverage the university's strengths in science, information technology, data management and systems engineering to address society's critical issues such as poverty and climate change. The appointment is effective Monday (July 19).

"GPRI is very fortunate to have Angela as its inaugural managing director," said Arden Bement, director of the institute. "Her diverse experience in managing complex programs and working closely with policy-makers at high levels in the U.S. Congress and executive branch will be invaluable in coordinating policy activities across Purdue."

During the past 18 months, Diaz has been working with the California Council on Science and Technology on various projects involving science, technology, engineering and mathematics education and science and technology innovation.

At Purdue, Diaz will be leading efforts to promote interdisciplinary collaboration through faculty and student fellowships and nationally visible workshops, forums and publications.

"I am honored to be a member of the GPRI leadership team, working with Dr. Bement to help carry out Purdue's goals in the 'New Synergies' strategic plan through the institute," Diaz said. "It is an exciting time to be working with faculty and the community at large to increase the visibility of Purdue's research findings and enhance the impact of the university's discoveries for the common good through strategic partnerships."

Diaz has held executive leadership positions in education, government relations, aerospace and international relations at the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy, and the University of California at Riverside.

Diaz serves on a number of national and regional boards including the Achievement Rewards for College Scientists Foundation, the Great Lakes Girls Collaborative Project, American Astronautical Society and the Women In Aerospace Foundation.

Diaz has an MBA degree from Marymount University of Virginia and has completed executive leadership programs at the Harvard Business School and the Kennedy School of Government.