



Sidharth Paranjape, left, Ravi Patel, Niki Ritchey and professor Suresh Garimella work together Friday in the mechanical engineering building at Purdue University. Garimella is Purdue's first associate vice president for engagement. (By Michael Heinz/Journal & Courier)



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Policy and administration was not the expected path for Suresh Garimella.

As a mechanical engineer who started his post-graduate studies at Ohio State in 1985, Garimella has been a highly proficient researcher in developing cooling technologies for computers and investigating the physics behind how cooling takes place in miniature systems.

At Purdue University, Garimella became the director of the Cooling Technologies Research Center, and the policy bug bit.

Garimella began to consider ways to explore involvement in policy, but his workload and student research group provided no time.

That changed last year when he was picked as Jefferson Science Fellowship for the U.S. Department of State and was on-site in Washington, D.C., for most of 2011.

Then last month, he became Purdue's first associate vice president for engagement, essentially taking over the position held by Vic Lechtenberg, who is retiring next

SURESH GARIMELLA

Title: Associate vice president for engagement, R. Eugene and Susie E. Goodson distinguished professor of mechanical engineering

Years at Purdue: 11

Age: 48

Home: Born in India, lived in U.S. since 1985

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