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Ronald Samuelian named president of Provost & Pritchard Consulting Group

FRESNO, CA: Provost & Pritchard Consulting Group's Board of Directors has appointed Ronald Samuelian as the third president in the firm's 46-year history. Samuelian has been a principal engineer and vice president of the firm, and takes over as president/CEO from Dale Melville, who has served in this position the past 13 years. The announcement of the leadership transition came with the start of the Provost & Pritchard's 2014-15 fiscal year on Oct. 1.

"Ronnie has been a vice president for over six years and has served on Provost & Pritchard's Board of Directors for a similar duration," said Melville. "Ronnie's knowledge of firm operations, proven leadership, project management abilities, and dedication to our clients and staff demonstrates his readiness to be our new president."

Samuelian joined Provost & Pritchard in 2000 and has over two decades of water resources and agricultural engineering experience. As a vice president, he oversaw the firm's planning, surveying, geographical information systems (GIS), construction services, and municipal infrastructure and water resources services. Samuelian is a registered civil engineer in California, and holds a bachelor's degree in civil engineering and a master's in business administration from California State University, Fresno.

"I am honored and excited to work with such a talented group of people who are so dedicated to serving our clients and the communities we live and work in," shared Samuelian. "Our goal is to continue encouraging our staff to provide practical and innovative solutions and quality customer service to our clients, while maintaining our status as one of the best firms to work for in the United States."

With the transition, Melville is stepping into a principal engineer role where his focus will be working on client projects, in addition to becoming a member of the firm's Board of Directors.

There have been a number of accomplishments for Provost & Pritchard over the past 13 years, commented Melville as he reflected on his tenure as president.

"It's important to note that our accomplishments were by the Provost & Pritchard team as a whole, with active participation ranging from our entry-level employees to our Board of Directors; I just happened to be in the presidency role at the time," he said.

Under Melville's leadership, Provost & Pritchard more than doubled in size, growing from 48 employees in 2001 to 130 in 2014. In addition, the firm's locations from Fresno and Bakersfield expanded to include offices in Visalia, Clovis, Modesto, Los Banos, and Chico.

"Growing our staff numbers has provided additional depth and services for our clients and greater opportunities for our staff to develop and grow in their careers," explained Melville. "Expanding our locations beyond Fresno and Bakersfield gave us a broader range of clients throughout the Central Valley."

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Another highlight for the firm under Melville's leadership included being regularly selected as one of the top 25 "Best Firms to Work For" in the nation among civil engineering companies—once as a No. 1 mid-size firm and twice as No. 4 of all-sized firms.

"Being the employer of choice for our region is one of the tenets of our vision, and says a lot about our culture and people that reinforce that culture by their actions," explained Melville. "We continue to live by our core values – integrity, quality, caring, respect, accountability, family, and teamwork. And I am proud to see how our staff support each other, whether helping out with abnormal medical expenses of a family member in need, donating vacation time to an associate with an extended illness or needing to take care of a family member, or volunteering their time to help an associate meet a project deadline—basically, always covering each other's backs! This mentality is one of the foundations of the culture at Provost & Pritchard."

Established in 1968, Provost & Pritchard Consulting Group has a strong tradition of engineering and consulting excellence throughout California. With office locations in Fresno, Bakersfield, Visalia, Clovis, Modesto, Los Banos, and Chico, the firm features a mix of seasoned professionals, complemented by younger staff with fresh ideas. Provost & Pritchard specializes in civil and agricultural engineering, environmental and land use planning, hydrogeology and geology, surveying, and construction management services in the areas of water resources, municipal infrastructure, agriculture, site development, and environmental compliance. For more information, visit www.ppeng.com or email info@ppeng.com.

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