Shangraw Named Director of the ASU Decision Theatre

March 9, 2005 (Tempe, AZ) -- R.F. “Rick” Shangraw, Jr., has been appointed executive director of the Decision Theater at Arizona State University and professor of practice in the College of Public Programs.

The Decision Theater at Arizona State University is a world-class facility for science-based, informed analysis to help the community and policy makers visualize the future through alternate scenarios. The computer-driven visualization tool will play a vital role in several ASU research projects and it will be central to the newly established Decision Center for a Desert City, formed with a $6.9 million federal grant to ASU.

“I am very excited to take on the challenge of integrating advanced visualization tools with difficult policy problems,” remarks Shangraw. “ASU provides the perfect environment to realize President Crow’s vision of making research more relevant to society.”

“Professor Shangraw’s expertise in the fields of decision systems, the environment and public management will enhance the work of our faculty and others involved in the Decision Theater,” notes Jeff Chapman, interim dean of the College of Public Programs.

Shangraw comes to ASU from Project Performance Corporation, McLean, Va., where he was founder, chairman and chief executive officer. Founded in 1991, the corporation includes practices that specialize in energy, environment, homeland security, IT infrastructure and new media solutions focused on simplifying complex problems for top government and Fortune 500 decision makers.
As a policy and management consultant, Shangraw designed and implemented program planning and evaluation systems for clients such as the U.S. departments of energy, defense, and health and human services; for Fortune 100 oil and chemical companies; and the World Bank. Shangraw also has worked as a consultant for Rand Corporation.

He has published in the areas of program risk and uncertainty, organizational performance and measurement, and managerial decision making.

His doctorate is in public administration from the Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs at Syracuse University, where he was an assistant professor in public administration and senior research associate in the Center for Technology and Information Policy.

Shangraw began his duties at ASU on Feb. 22.

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