



As dean of the [College of Agriculture and Natural Resources](#) (CANR), Fred Poston leads the agriculture and natural resources research, teaching and outreach programs for [Michigan State University \(MSU\)](#). Working collaboratively with [MSU AgBioResearch](#) and [MSU Extension](#), Dean Poston works to advance Michigan's rich agriculture and natural resources sector, educate future leaders, and lead faculty and staff in solving some of Michigan's and the world's greatest challenges.



Poston served as vice president for finance and operations for Michigan State University from 1999 to his [appointment as dean in January 2013](#). In the vice president's role, he managed the financial planning of the university, kept housing costs among the lowest of the Big Ten, oversaw the building of a nationally acclaimed recycling center and facilitated a new university-wide human resources management program.

Before his appointment as vice president, Poston served as CANR Dean for eight years (1991–98). In his time as dean, Poston guided the [Revitalization of Michigan Animal Agriculture Initiative](#), created Project GREEN (Generating Research and Extension to meet Economic and Environmental Needs), and developed the Partnership for Ecosystem Research and Management between MSU and the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, involving partners including the MDNR's Forest Management Division, the Great Lakes Fishery Commission and the U.S. Geological Survey.

Prior to coming to MSU, Poston was director of Washington State University's Cooperative Extension Service and associate dean of agriculture and home economics. Before that, he was on the entomology faculty at Kansas Cooperative Extension Service.

A native of Florida, Poston received his bachelor's degree from West Texas State University and his graduate degrees in entomology from Iowa State University.