

## **Sam Blakeslee Bio**

Sam Blakeslee founded the Institute for Advanced Technology and Public Policy at Cal Poly in 2012 and was named by Government Technology one of their Top 25 Doers, Dreamers, and Drivers. With a portfolio of experience as a scientist, business owner and legislator, his goal is to bring these diverse worlds together with cross-disciplinary thinkers to solve some of the most complex public policy challenges facing society today.

Dr. Blakeslee attended U.C. Berkeley where he earned bachelor's and master's degrees in geophysics. He was awarded a Ph.D. from U.C. Santa Barbara for his work in seismic scattering, micro-earthquake studies and fault-zone attenuation. As a senior research geophysicist and a strategic planner with Exxon, he received a patent for his innovative work in geologic imaging and was responsible for assisting with the transfer of cutting-edge technology to Exxon's global affiliates.

Blakeslee was elected to the California State Assembly in 2005 and later to the State Senate. Elected by his fellow legislators, Blakeslee served a term as Assembly Minority Leader. In this role, he was a member of the "Big 5" with responsibility for negotiating the state budget and major policy initiatives. He also served and held leadership positions on a variety of legislative committees and successfully authored dozens of bills to reform policy related to energy, the environment, health care, job creation, lobbying, public and worker safety, veterans' affairs and other areas of concern.