American educator Dr. Hans C. Giesecke, 53, has been chosen to become the 10th President of Anatolia College, one of Greece’s most prominent educational institutions. Anatolia, founded in the Ottoman Empire by Boston Congregationalist missionaries in 1886 and uprooted in 1924 to Greece, today comprises the U.S. and European-accredited American College of Thessaloniki (ACT) and its graduate school of business, the Anatolia College preparatory school (an International Baccalaureate World School), and Anatolia Elementary. Almost 2500 students pursue their studies on its 45-acre campus overlooking the northern port city of Thessaloniki and the lofty peaks of Mt. Olympus.

Born in Salem, Oregon, in America’s Pacific Northwest to a family of German immigrants and political refugees, Dr. Giesecke has been President and CEO of Independent Colleges of Indiana since 2002. He has spent his career in college-level education in California, Tennessee, and Minnesota, in addition to Indiana, with interludes in Germany and Austria. Each of Giesecke’s prior jobs has involved significant outreach initiatives to K-12 education.

Like Anatolia's first President, Charles Tracy, Giesecke is a graduate of Williams College, where he majored in psychology. He holds an M.A. in public policy and administration from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, and a Ph.D. in education and human development from Vanderbilt University. His wife, Susan L. Giesecke, is an experienced educator, corporate trainer and communications consultant. They have three children, the eldest of whom will enter Anatolia's International Baccalaureate Program in September.

In announcing Giesecke’s appointment, Jack Clymer, Chair of the Anatolia Board of Trustees, said: "Anatolia is immensely pleased to have secured a leader of Dr. Giesecke's stature and experience. The Board believes he has the qualities of leadership and vision that will carry Anatolia forward in the 21st century." Dr. Giesecke will assume his duties as President on August 1, following the retirement of President Richard L. Jackson, who served Anatolia for ten years.
“I am deeply honored to be named the next President of Anatolia,” says Giesecke. “Anatolia is a vibrant institution with a proud and moving history. I look forward to devoting my energies to the challenges of keeping Anatolia and its three divisions at the forefront of educational excellence and opportunity.”

“For me it is no small coincidence that Anatolia still treasures its founding connection to the Haystack Movement, which was begun at Williams College in the early 19th Century. I hope to continue building on that special spirit of connectivity between North America and Greece during my service as Anatolia’s President,” says Giesecke.

Dr. Giesecke is no stranger to European education. Fluent in German and conversant with European culture and politics, he spent the period from January 2000 through July 2002 as head of the Student Affairs team at International University Bremen (now Jacobs University) in Germany, developing the Admissions, Financial Aid, Registrar, and Student Life offices at this new, highly-selective, English-language independent research university affiliated with Rice University in Texas. He also taught international relations and organizational studies at International University Vienna in the spring of 2008. He has a long-standing interest in the democratic reform movements that swept across Eastern and Central Europe in the late 1980s and early 1990s, which led him to write his doctoral dissertation on the rise of private colleges in Eastern Europe.

As President and CEO of Independent Colleges of Indiana and, previously, of a similar organization in Tennessee, Dr. Giesecke has worked to strengthen the financial position of private colleges and to increase student access to financial aid. In Indiana he has also served as the supervising officer of the Lilly Endowment Community Scholarship Program, one of the largest private, single-source scholarship programs in the U.S., which awards some $18 million per year to nearly 900 Indiana college and university students.

His advocacy of non-profit, private higher education and wide knowledge of the field have made Giesecke a sought-after speaker and consultant at conferences, symposia, and institutions in Europe and North America. Away from work, Giesecke spends much of his free time in outdoor recreational pursuits with his family – running, cycling, cross-country skiing, swimming, and hiking – all of which are available in abundance at or near Anatolia.

Anatolia is governed by an international Board of Trustees composed of distinguished individuals from both Europe and North America. The College maintains a permanent presence in North America through its office in Boston, Mass., where significant fundraising and outreach activities are undertaken.