

Alfred University art school dean to become president at Kendall College of Art

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Leslie Bellavance, who has been dean of the School of Art & Design at Alfred University since August 2010, will become the new president of the Kendall College of Art and Design and a vice president at Ferris State University in Grand Rapids, MI, effective July 1.

“Congratulations are certainly in order for Dean Bellavance on her appointment as president of Kendall College of Art and Design, and vice president of Ferris State University,” said Alfred University Provost Richard Stephens. “However, Kendall’s gain is certainly Alfred University’s loss. Dean Bellavance has led AU’s School of Art and Design with sophistication and distinction, and I can understand her selection by Kendall as their next president. On behalf of all faculty at Alfred University, we wish only the best for Leslie and her new colleagues.”

“Since 2010 I have the pleasurable challenge of leading a historically significant art school that continues its tradition of innovation and curricular vitality,” said Bellavance. “It has been my privilege and honor to serve as dean of the School of Art and Design at Alfred University.

“In my new role as president of Kendall College of Art and Design and vice president of Ferris State University, I will lead an art school that has developed into a cultural force in the city of Grand Rapids. The historic and continuing accomplishments of Kendall College of Art and Design and Ferris State University are evidence, I believe, of a dynamic culture of achievement, excellence, and forward vision.”

During her tenure at Alfred, Bellavance led the development of a five-year strategic plan for the School of Art & Design, and developed the Collaboration in the Arts Initiative, bringing funding to semester and year-long performing artists-in-residence for the Division of Performing Arts, part of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, to enhance cross disciplinary learning.

She helped to organize and curate the Profile Exhibition in New York City, an exhibition of senior Bachelor of Fine Arts students in Chelsea and also at the Museum of Arts and Design.

Bellavance was instrumental in the development and completion of the Digital Photography Lab to enhance undergraduate professional programs, and worked to establish of consistent, authentic, and ongoing assessment of

student learning outcomes. She led the completion of a successful curriculum for an arts management minor in collaboration with the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and the School of Business.

At present, she is working with faculty to establish a new Master of Fine Arts degree in painting to take place on the Alfred campus and in Dusseldorf, Germany.

Bellavance received a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from Tyler School of Art at Temple University in Philadelphia and a Master of Fine Arts degree from the University of Chicago. She served on the faculty of the Department of Visual Art in the Peck School of the Arts at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee from 1981 until 2005, where she also served as head of the Photography Program, director of Graduate Studies in Art, and interim associate dean. After, she served as a professor of art and the director of the School of Art and Art History at James Madison University in Virginia for five years prior to coming to Alfred.

Her art has been widely exhibited in the United States and Europe and recognized by numerous grants and awards, including a National Endowment for the Arts Fellowship and a Wisconsin Arts Board Fellowship. She was awarded a residency for her book, *Analemmic*, published by Nexus Press in Atlanta, GA.

Bellavance was recently elected to the board of directors for the National Association of the Schools of Art and Design (NASAD). Alfred University's visual arts programs in the School of Art and Design and the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences are accredited by NASAD. Bellavance is Alfred University's institutional representative to the organization. She has served as a NASAD visiting evaluator since 2006 and has also served as a member of the nominations committee. She also serves as a member of the board of directors of the College Art Association and on the Executive Committee of the National Council of Arts Administrators.

Founded as a private, non-profit school of art and design, Kendall College merged with Ferris State University in 2001. Since the merger, Kendall College of Art and Design has grown both in terms of enrollment, academic offerings and its physical campus. During this period the college has nearly doubled its student body to its current enrollment of 1,438 students in fall 2014.

Recent new programs include fashion studies in the Pamella Roland DeVos School of Fashion, collaborative design and medical illustration. Kendall has also expanded from a single building into a urban campus encompassing the Kendall Building, the Woodbridge N. Ferris building (the former Federal Building) and the Urban Institute for Contemporary Art. The college hosts two exhibition venues for the ArtPrize competition, and is home to Boyer Sculpture Garden and the Wege Center for Sustainable Design.