

AU's Edmondson elected president of the Empire 8 conference

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ROCHESTER, NY Alfred University President Dr. Charles M. Edmondson has been elected president of the Empire 8 athletic conference. Edmondson will begin his two-year term as Empire 8 president July 1. He will replace Utica College President Dr. Todd Hutton, who has served as conference president since January 2002. "Athletic competition offers young people a distinctive opportunity at personal growth. In Division III, it should always complement and never detract from education," Edmondson said. "The Empire 8 exemplifies the ideal that athletic competition and sportsmanship enhance the collegiate experience of young people. I am honored to serve as president of such a conference." "We are very excited to have Dr. Edmondson as our next president," said Empire 8 Commissioner Chuck Mitrano. "His philosophy of intercollegiate athletics and the role it plays in the mission of an educational institution is very healthy and reflective of the Empire 8's philosophy as a whole. We look forward to more great progress under his leadership." Edmondson became the 13th president of Alfred University on July 1, 2000. He was instrumental in establishing a Phi Beta Kappa chapter at the university's College of Liberal Arts & Sciences, a distinction afforded to only 270 colleges in the U.S. He has also recently secured the largest gift in Alfred University history to build a new 500-seat main stage theater at the Miller Performing Arts Center. Newly elected to the Board of Directors of the Commission on Independent Colleges and Universities, Edmondson also serves as a member of the board and treasurer of the Independent College Fund of New York. Edmondson came to Alfred after serving as vice president for Academic Affairs and provost at Rollins College in Winter Park, FL, for seven years. He earned a B.A. degree, magna cum laude, and an M.A. degree in history from the University of Mississippi, and received a Ph.D. degree in history from Florida State University. The Empire 8 became a full-fledged athletic conference in September 1999. Its full-time members include Alfred University, Elmira College, Hartwick College, Ithaca College, Nazareth College, Rochester Institute of Technology, St. John Fisher College and Utica College. Springfield College and Norwich University are affiliated with the Empire 8 for football only. For more on the Empire 8 visit www.Empire8.com.