

Gupta to speak at year's final Bergren Forum

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Dr. Uma Gupta, president of neighboring Alfred State College, will be the guest speaker at Thursday's (April 28) Bergren Forum in Nevins Theatre, Powell Campus Center on the Alfred University campus. Her topic will be "Spiritual Leadership in the Workplace." The Bergren Forum, the final one for the spring semester, will be held at 12:10 p.m. Gupta is the 10th president of Alfred State College, primarily a two-year institution located across Main Street from Alfred University. Originally founded in 1908 as the New York State School of Agriculture on the Alfred University campus, it was made part of the State University of New York system when SUNY was created in 1948. It is now officially called the State University of New York College of Technology at Alfred. And while two-year degrees continue to be the mainstay of Alfred State, it has begun to offer baccalaureate degrees in some technical disciplines. She holds a Ph.D. degree in industrial engineering, and an MBA from the University of Central Florida, Orlando, and master and bachelor degrees in mathematics from Stella Maris College, Madras, India. Prior to coming to Alfred, she was Dean of the College of Technology at the University of Houston and the McGraw Endowed Chair in Information Technology at Creighton University, Omaha, NE. She also held positions at East Carolina University, Greenville, NC, and the University of Central Florida. Since assuming the reins at Alfred State, Gupta has launched the Leadership Circle of Western New York, a community-based initiative that brings together leaders from business, education, and government to revitalize the region. She has outlined five key initiatives for the region: leadership development, entrepreneurship, work force development, women and minorities empowerment, and K-12 partnerships. The weekly Bergren Forums have been a mainstay of Alfred University life for 35 years. They were started in 1970 by Dr. Rick Bergren, who taught at AU until his death in 1974, and were inspired by the gatherings AU students of the 19th century had in Alumni Hall when they would discuss major issues of the day. After Bergren's death, the Division of Human Studies decided to continue them in his memory. They are held weekly during the academic year, and those in the audience are invited to take their own lunch. Coffee and tea are provided. They are open to the public, free of charge.