

Dobie appointed dean of Alfred University's College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

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Beth Ann Dobie

Beth Ann Dobie, a professor of art theory at Alfred University since 1995, will become dean of Alfred University's oldest and largest academic unit, the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, effective July 1.

"There are few people with the breadth and depth of knowledge of Alfred University that Dr. Dobie brings to her new position," said Alfred University President Mark Zupan, who announced the appointment at a campus-wide meeting. Zupan added that "Beth Ann will be a worthy successor to Lou Lichtman as dean and we are immensely grateful to both of them for their willingness to serve in a leadership capacity for our University."

In addition to chairing the Division of Human Studies and serving as director of the Fine Arts and Interdisciplinary Art program, Dobie chaired the University's self-study committee for re-accreditation by the Middle States Association, and has chaired the Middle States Association Oversight Committee, experiences that deepened her understanding both of Alfred University and of the role the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences plays in the education of all Alfred University students.

"I am so pleased that Dr. Dobie has agreed to take on the responsibilities, and opportunities of leading Alfred University's largest college," said W. Richard Stephens, provost and vice president for Academic Affairs. "Beth Ann has already served in several critical leadership capacities within the College and across the University, and has demonstrated a deft and imaginative touch. I believe she is both ready and right for the role of dean. I am also grateful to the members of the search committee for all their efforts in sorting through more than 60 applicants for the position. This was a job well done."

Dobie is eager to begin her new role. "I am excited and honored to be named the next dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences," she said. "Delivering a vibrant liberal arts and sciences education has never been more important. Our college faculty and staff are awesome; they are dedicated to excellence in education and to the success of all of our Alfred University students. I am proud to be an emissary and spokesperson for our College."

"I am looking forward to being a member of the emerging leadership team and to working with people across the

University, with students, with alumni, and with trustees, as we all write Alfred University's next chapter," Dobie added.

A graduate of Southern Connecticut State University with a B.A. degree in philosophy, Dobie earned her master's and Ph.D. degrees, also in philosophy, from the University of Connecticut. Her areas of specialization include philosophy of art, feminist theory and philosophy of language.

Dobie was instrumental in establishing a chapter of Phi Beta Kappa, the nation's oldest honorary society, at Alfred University; fewer than 300 colleges of liberal arts and sciences in the country have been granted Phi Beta Kappa chapters. She has served as a foundation member of Phi Beta Kappa since 2004. She has received the Joseph Kruson Trust Award for Excellence in Teaching from the University.

She has been a frequent member of Middle States Commission on Higher Education (MSCHE) evaluation teams for colleges and schools of art, and serves as a member of the MSCHE Committee on Substantive Change. In 2004 and again in 2014, she led Alfred University's re-accreditation efforts.