

Edward G. Coll, Jr., to Retire after 18 Years as AU's President

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Alfred, NY – Edward G. Coll, Jr., president of Alfred University since 1982, will retire at the close of the 1999-2000 academic year. The search for the 13th president of Alfred University is expected to formally begin in September with the placement of advertisements in national publications. Dr. Gene Bernstein, a 1969 alumnus of the University and now chairman of its Board of Trustees, has appointed a Presidential Search Committee, which has retained consultant Dr. Jean Dowdall of A.T. Kearney to assist with the search process. Founded in 1836, Alfred University now has enrollment of approximately 2,300 students, including 1,900 undergraduate and 400 graduate students. While president of Alfred University, Coll has been credited with implementing a strategic planning process that has helped to move the University forward. Some of the achievements are: a steady increase in average SAT scores for incoming students, from 980 to 1129. Its freshman enrollment a year ago was 558 students, the largest class in 25 years, and this year's is anticipated to be as large with 563 paid deposits so far. an initiative to recruit National Merit Scholars. Alfred University now has one of the largest percentages of National Merit Scholars among New York state colleges and universities. The class that enters Alfred later this month will have 15 National Merit Scholars, joining nine who enrolled in 1998 and 19 who enrolled in 1997. a consistent ranking among the top 15 regional universities in the North by U.S. News and World Report, which also ranks Alfred University's MFA program in ceramic art as number one in the nation. Its ceramic engineering and materials science program is ranked number one nationally at both the graduate and undergraduate level by The Gourman Report. a building program that can be matched on few small college campuses over the past two decades. Five new academic facilities have been constructed, and four others, including landmarks such as Alumni Hall and The Steinheim, have been renovated. The campus itself has also undergone extensive landscaping. Another \$20 million in additional construction projects are under way or planned for the near future. an increase in the University's endowment from \$8 million in 1982 to \$54 million today through prudent management and aggressive fund-raising. academic initiatives that have seen Alfred become the only institution in the U.S. and only the third in the world to offer a Ph.D. in glass science; implement new graduate degree programs in a variety of areas, including master's degrees in business administration, biomedical materials engineering science and integrated electronic arts; and launch new undergraduate programs in fields such as molecular cell biology and management information systems. two major campaigns completed, raising a total of \$90 million against a combined goal of \$53 million. In addition, a third campaign to raise \$70 million by June 2000, had already reached \$67.5 million as of July 1. On a national level, Coll has long been involved in the National Collegiate Athletics Association (NCAA), serving as vice chair of the President's Commission, 1988-91; vice president for Division III, 1994-96; a member of the executive committee, 1994-96; and a member of the NCAA Council, 1993-97. He was one of four officers charged with restructuring the organization in 1995-96. He has also been very involved with the Council for the Advancement and Support of Education, a national organization of professionals in the development field. He has been a district director and chair, as well as a national director from 1981-82 and again from 1989-93. In addition to serving as chair of the CASE Board of Trustees, he has been active on a number of committees. He is well known among development professionals for the articles he has written for various publications. Coll came to Alfred University from the University of Miami, where he had been vice president for development from 1973 until he became president of Alfred University. He spent a total of 19 years in various development positions at the University of Miami. A Pittsburgh-area native, Coll received his bachelor's degree from Duquesne University, which also awarded him an honorary doctorate. He was also named a Fulbright Fellow, studying at Warwick University in Coventry, England. He and his wife, Carole Lee Hulse Coll, are the parents of five grown children; they have seven grandchildren.