

Brody to take new job as VP at Southwestern University

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Gerald Brody, vice president of Student Affairs and dean of students at Alfred University since 1993, is leaving the University to become vice president for student life at Southwestern University in Georgetown, TX. "I leave with mixed emotions," said Brody. "While I am excited about joining this outstanding liberal arts university, I am saddened about the prospect of leaving Alfred University. My 11 years here have been wonderful. I have worked with two outstanding presidents (Edward G. Coll, Jr. and Charles M. Edmondson), supported by dedicated trustees and cabinet members. By almost all measures, the Student Affairs staff at Alfred University is one of the finest in the country. The faculty and community have been welcoming and supportive, and practically every day the students reaffirm why I chose to come to Alfred in the first place. I will be leaving good friends and valued colleagues." "I feel very strongly that Alfred University, under its current management team, is moving in the right direction," Brody said. "I am leaving Alfred University purely for personal family reasons." "We will all miss Jerry Brody," said AU President Charles M. Edmondson. "He is the consummate Students Affairs professional, one who always put the needs of the students first in all decisions that he made. Fortunately for Alfred University, he has built an outstanding Student Affairs staff, one that shares his belief that students come first, and that will make our transition to a new vice president for student affairs that much easier." "By every measure we in higher education use to measure the quality of our students' experience at Alfred University, we rank consistently above the national averages, and that speaks to the job Jerry and his staff have done to create a positive environment for our students," Edmondson said. Edmondson said interim leadership will be announced in a few days. At Alfred University, Brody directed a student activities staff that consistently wins regional and even national awards for its programs. AU was recognized for having the "Outstanding Multicultural Program" in the nation by the Commission on Multicultural Education, part of the National Association of Campus Activities, and for having one of the 10 best drug and alcohol-education programs in the nation by the Joint Commission, a consortium of national professional associations. Regionally, the University received the best student activities program award in the Eastern Region of the National Association of Campus Activities, selected from among those submitted by 214 schools. The Career Development Center received the Innovation Award from the Eastern Association of Colleges and Employers, and AU Dining Services has received several awards from the National Association of Colleges and Universities Food Services. Daniel Napolitano, director of student activities, was named the outstanding professional in the region by the National Association of Campus Activities, and Dr. Norman Pollard, the Counseling Center director, was elected to the eight-member executive board of the Association of University and College Counseling Centers. He has seen numerous AU athletic teams, including men's basketball, women's volleyball, men's swimming, men's lacrosse and the men's and women's ski teams qualify for national post-season play-offs. "Behind the awards and the accomplishments, though, is what I regard as my most significant achievement at Alfred University," Brody said, "and that's the experience we've been able to provide students. I am proudest of the fact that we have been able to see our students develop and grow into confident young men and women, and that we have seen a marked increase in student satisfaction in the 11 years I've been at Alfred. That's a credit to the University's student affairs team." While at Alfred University, Brody was involved in the consolidation of the placement office in what was then the School of Ceramic Engineering and the Career Development Center into a single unit that serves all students at the University. During his tenure, the placement rate has increased significantly, reaching as high as 97 percent, reflecting the number of respondents to the Career Development Center of recent graduates who each year say they are either employed or attending graduate school. He oversaw the opening of the Powell Campus Center in 1995 and the renovation of the Steinheim into a new home for the Career Development Center. Brody started at Alfred University in August 1993 after 14 years at San Jose State, where he was vice president for student affairs. Prior to that, Brody had been director of career planning and placement at Kent State University and assistant director at the University of New Hampshire. A native of Haverhill, MA, Brody earned a bachelor's degree in political science from Brown University and a master's in counseling and personnel services from the University of New Hampshire. In the community, Brody has been a member of the board of directors of the Allegany County Chapter of the American Red Cross and a member of the Alfred Lions Club. His wife, Abby, a former broadcast journalist, has served as a spokesperson for Allegany County in a number of commercials promoting the county. She was web marketing coordinator for Alfred University and was involved in the creation or redesign of several AU websites. The Brodys have two children, Hallie, 12, and Ben, 6. Southwestern University, located about 25 miles from

Austin, TX, has 1,250 undergraduate students and is widely considered to be one of the top liberal arts colleges in the nation.