

Edwards to lead NYS College of Ceramics

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The State University Board of Trustees (SUNY) Tuesday affirmed the appointment of [Doreen Edwards](#) as acting head of the New York State College of Ceramics. She also serves as acting vice president for Statutory Affairs and is dean of the [Inamori School of Engineering](#) at Alfred University.

Alfred University President Charles M. Edmondson appointed Edwards to the position of acting unit head for the statutory college following the resignation of Linda E. Jones, who became provost of Western New England University July 1. The appointment must be affirmed by the SUNY Board of Trustees, which administers the contract between AU and the State Legislature, which partially funds the College of Ceramics through a direct allocation each year.

“Dr. Edwards is very well-qualified for this expanded role in the administration of the College of Ceramics,” said Edmondson. “She is an outstanding dean of the School of Engineering and is well-prepared to take on the additional responsibilities.”

The New York State College of Ceramics is one of five statutory colleges in the state; the other four are located at Cornell University. All were created by acts of the State Legislature before the SUNY system was created in 1948. The statutory colleges are operated by Alfred and Cornell universities through agreements with the state, and are partially funded by allocations from the State Legislature each year.

While the unit head reports to the Alfred University president, there is a “dotted line” report to the SUNY chancellor as well.

“Dr. Edwards has an outstanding record of service at the College of Ceramics and throughout her career in higher education,” said Nancy Zimpher, SUNY chancellor. “We are thankful that she has agreed to take on these additional responsibilities. As a new semester begins, the students, faculty, and staff at the campus are in good hands.”

“I am honored by this opportunity to serve as the head of the NYS College of Ceramics and to strengthen the public-private partnership between SUNY and Alfred University,” said Edwards. “With its unique combination of art and engineering programs, the College is committed to supporting the region’s economic growth through creative and

technological innovation. I particularly look forward to working with the faculty, staff, and students to build the connections among engineering, science, art and design.”

The statutory programs at Alfred University include undergraduate and graduate degree programs in biomaterials engineering, ceramic engineering, glass science engineering and materials science, as well as those offered through the School of Art & Design.

Edwards has been dean of the School of Engineering since 2009, and had associate dean for two years prior to that. She was director of graduate engineering programs for the School from 2003-07. She joined the Alfred University faculty in 1997 as an assistant professor of materials science and engineering; and earned promotion to associate professor in 2003, and to full professor in 2007.

Edwards has received accolades for her teaching, including an Excellence in Teaching Award from Alfred University in 2002; the John F. McMahon Excellence in Teaching Award in 2004; and the State University of New York Chancellor&s Award for Excellence in Teaching, also in 2004, Buckley noted.

As a researcher, Edwards& interests include materials for electrical, optical and energy-conversion applications, such as solid-oxide fuel cells, batteries, sensors, thermoelectric devices, concentrated solar power, and solid-state lighting.

She was instrumental in securing nearly \$6 million in funding through New York State to create the Center for High-Temperature Characterization at Alfred University; the facility provides a unique set of tools for analyzing materials that are either processed at high temperatures, or are used in high-temperature applications.

Edwards received a prestigious CAREER grant from the National Science Foundation (NSF) in 2001 and was awarded an NSF-funded project in collaboration with researchers at the National University of Singapore and Ural State University in Russia. Edwards has also obtained research funding through the New York State Center for Advanced Ceramic Technology, the Center for Environmental and Energy Research at Alfred University, the federal Department of Energy and several industrial partners.

Prior to coming to Alfred, Edwards was a research assistant and teaching assistant at Northwestern University of Chicago, where she earned a Ph.D. degree in materials science and engineering in 1997. After earning a B.S. degree in chemistry from the South Dakota School of Mines and Technology in 1985, Edwards was a research scientist at Gould, Inc., in Rolling Meadows, IL, from 1985-87, and then joined Northwestern University&s Basic Research Laboratory in Evanston, IL, as a research scientist for six years prior to entering the graduate program.