

Consolidation talks 'suspended indefinitely'

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Alfred University President Charles M. Edmondson today confirmed that the consolidation discussions with Alfred State College about a possible consolidation of the two institutions have been "suspended indefinitely." Whatever the conclusion, Edmondson stated that the leadership of Alfred State College, the State University of New York, and Alfred University had been right to explore the possibility of consolidation. "I agree with Bill Rezak (president of Alfred State College) that there is a long-term rationale for combining the two institutions that share this village," said Edmondson. "There is an obvious long-term potential through consolidation of achieving economies of administrative scale; developing unique academic programs; contributing more effectively to the development of the local economy; and building a university with significant national visibility." The AU President also indicated he believes that most of the problems that surfaced during the discussions could have been resolved in the long-term. Because both institutions were currently doing well, however, the short-term risks appeared to overshadow the long-term benefits. Edmondson expressed the opinion that SUNY and both Alfred institutions will examine the possibility of some kind of consolidation again. "It seems very clear to me that the tax payers of New York cannot afford to fund even partially duplicative baccalaureate programs in applied science and engineering in a small village in the Southern Tier." Until formal talks resume, however, Alfred University and Alfred State College have agreed to continue to work together to create an attractive environment for students and faculty.