

## **Alfred University appoints new provost/vice president for Academic Affairs**

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Dr. Suzanne Buckley will begin serving as Alfred University's provost and vice president of Academic Affairs July 1. AU President Charles M. Edmondson and Dr. Nancy Evangelista, associate professor of School Psychology and chair of the Provost Search Committee, made a joint announcement of Buckley's appointment to campus this morning. "We had a number of excellent candidates from which to choose," said Edmondson, "but Suzanne Buckley would bring to Alfred University the vision, the sense of initiative and entrepreneurship, and the experience we need in Academic Affairs to help us achieve the very ambitious goals we have for the University." Buckley was provost, vice president for Academic Affairs and professor of history at Franklin Pierce College in Rindge, NH, for four years, from July 2001 to June 2005, when she began a sabbatical leave. Prior to that, she had administrative positions at Texas Women's College in Denton, TX; the University of Massachusetts at Dartmouth, and the State University of New York (SUNY) at Plattsburgh. "The Provost Search Committee is delighted to join with President Edmondson in announcing the appointment of Dr. Suzanne Buckley," said Evangelista. "Dr. Buckley brings to this position an impressive record of success in higher education administration at both public and private institutions. "Building on her commitment to shared governance and faculty development, Dr. Buckley has a strong history of integrating strategic planning as a means to develop and manage distinctive, financially stable, and sustainable academic programs. Her commitment to collaborative leadership and appreciation of the complexity of Alfred University make her uniquely qualified to join the faculty, administration, and staff in attaining the goal of continuing academic excellence as our next provost," Evangelista said in the statement from the search committee. "I am honored to have been asked to join Alfred, a very impressive University," said Buckley. "I was attracted to Alfred because of its distinguished academic reputation, rich history, excellent presidential leadership, talented, collegial and dedicated faculty, staff and students, manageable challenges and many opportunities. "One of the questions I asked myself about Alfred was if there was a good match between me and the University. I was pleased to see a strong one. The opportunity to serve Alfred will enable me to draw upon considerable experience in both private and public higher education, including several years at a SUNY campus, in order to help Alfred achieve its mission and receive increased national recognition as a model of a small, comprehensive university. I sincerely believe that I can make a positive difference in the lives of Alfred students, faculty and staff," she added. "As we all know, ultimately the success of a university rests on the people who work there. The people I met at Alfred were extraordinary in their commitment to Alfred and their willingness to work together to address Alfred's challenges and opportunities and to honor the commitment to provide an excellent education for students that will 'prepare them for a life of achievement and leadership.' I was especially impressed by the thoughtfulness of the questions asked and the accomplishments of the members of the University. I was also heartened by the strong support for the University from alumni. All the individuals who represented Alfred so well convinced me that I could contribute significantly to the University and thrive in its exciting community," Buckley said. "I eagerly look forward to returning to the beautiful campus, to meeting everyone and to assuming the responsibilities of provost and vice president for Academic Affairs," Buckley said. As provost and vice president for Academic Affairs at Franklin Pierce College, Buckley said she worked to have the college "recognized as a community of excellent teachers-scholars." Programs she spearheaded received accolades from accrediting or national funding agencies. Just as Alfred University is preparing to build a 500-seat proscenium theater at the Miller Performing Arts Center, Franklin Pierce College, under Buckley's leadership, created new space for its theater program. Working with faculty, she led initiatives to expand graduate-degree offerings. When she arrived in 2001, Franklin Pierce offered an on-site Master of Business Administration degree. Now it offers several additional graduate programs, both on-site and online, including a master's in Informational Technology with a track for health care professionals; a master's in teacher education and a doctorate in physical therapy. While she was at Franklin Pierce College, it had 1,620 traditional-age undergraduate students at its campus in Rindge, as well as another 2,000 commuting students enrolled in associate's, baccalaureate or graduate degree programs at six satellite campuses throughout the state. The Division of Graduate and Professional Studies also enrolls another 300 graduate students who take online courses and programs, and is responsible for a campus in Austria. Prior to becoming provost at Franklin Pierce College, Buckley was dean of the College of Arts and Sciences and professor of History at Texas Women's College for four years, and dean of Arts and Sciences and professor of History, and then special assistant to the chancellor at the University of Massachusetts at Dartmouth for four years prior to that. Much of Buckley's academic career was spent at SUNY Plattsburgh, where she

spent 18 years. In addition to being a professor of History, she was coordinator of the Women's Studies Program, a member of the Canadian Studies Program, and also served for seven years as associate dean of Arts and Sciences. She began teaching as an assistant professor of History at the University of Georgia in Athens, GA. Her scholarly research has "evolved from an initial interest in Anglo-Canadian relations, to women's history to medical history to the connections between teaching and administration." She has authored a number of publications on those topics, and has been a participant in or a presenter at more than 100 professional meetings and conferences. She earned her B.A. degree from Regis College in Weston, MA; a master's from Mount Holyoke College in South Hadley, MA; and her Ph.D. in History from Duke University in Durham, NC. Buckley's appointment concludes a national search launched earlier this academic year. Dr. William Hall, dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, has been acting provost and vice president for Academic Affairs since July 2004, when Dr. David Szczerbacki left to take a similar position at the College of St. Rose in Albany, NY.