

Dr. Robert Bitting's duties at AU expand to include planning and administration

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Dr. Robert K. Bitting, who has been associate vice president for research and sponsored programs at Alfred University since 1997, has been given additional responsibilities for planning and administration. Dr. David Szczerbacki, Alfred University provost, announced that Bitting will now be associate vice president for academic research, planning and administration. In his new position, Bitting will be working with President Charles M. Edmondson and Provost Szczerbacki to "support academic planning, resource development and program administration," according to Szczerbacki. In addition, Bitting will be focusing on strategic initiatives and planning & development of new programs. "Dr. Bitting has provided effective leadership in supporting sponsored research on campus, and as a liaison with federal and state government agencies and offices," Szczerbacki said. "His work in helping establish the Center for Environmental and Energy Research and our new Rural Justice Institute are the most recent examples of his ability to help develop academic and research initiatives and secure funding for them." Bitting will "continue to provide leadership in such areas," said Szczerbacki, but he will also now have supervisory responsibilities in the Office of Summer Programs and the Office of Academic Conferences and Special Events. He will also be working with the provost's office to coordinate faculty development and undergraduate research initiatives. A 17-year employee of AU, Bitting was instrumental in securing funding for the Center for Advanced Ceramic Technology, and became its director of operations when it was created in 1987, a position he held until 1997. The CACT brings in about \$1 million in state funding each year, matched by funding from industrial and other research partners. He also co-authored the proposal that resulted in creation of the \$10 million Ceramic Corridor Innovation Centers in Alfred and Painted Post. From 1992 to 1997, Bitting was also director of External Affairs for the College of Ceramics at AU. He is a columnist with the Olean Times Herald, writing about workplace issues, and conducts frequent workshops for industries, school districts and not-for-profit organizations on workplace issues, including strategic planning and leadership. A 1976 graduate of Thiel College in Greenville, PA, with a bachelor's degree in psychology, Bitting earned his M.S. degree in education from Alfred in 1980, and a Ph.D. in higher education from the State University of New York at Buffalo in 1988. He and his wife Diane, a teacher at Alfred-Almond Central School, live in Alfred with their two children, Sarah and Michael.##