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A Visionary Leader

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Paul M. Bobrowski, who transformed the College of Business at Auburn University with a vision of being a top 25 public business school, has been named dean of the University of Dayton's School of Business Administration, following a national search. He starts the new post July 1.

A Cleveland native, Bobrowski, 61, brings a wealth of administrative experience as well as ties to the Dayton region. After earning a bachelor's degree in aeronautical engineering in 1972 from the U.S. Air Force Academy, he worked as a performance engineer on the F-16 program at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base for three years.

"For me, as I look at my career, this seems to be a place where you can have an impact. This is a vibrant campus with momentum," said Bobrowski, who served as dean at Auburn for six years.

"The business world is littered with people who went wrong," he observed. "I believe business students need more than just an education; they need a spiritual connection."

Joseph Saliba, provost at the University of Dayton, called Bobrowski "a strong strategic leader with vision, energy and an entrepreneurial spirit. He brings an appreciation and enthusiasm for the school's Catholic, Marianist mission and the ability to enhance excellence at all levels."

Among Bobrowski's achievements at Auburn's College of Business:

- An upswing in faculty research productivity, with dramatic increases in both the number of articles published in the world's top 40 journals as well as presentations made at national and international conferences.

- A jump in private support, including the largest, single gift in the college's history — $5 million for the finance department. In all, he helped raise $26.2 million of a total $33.3 million the business college attracted during the "It Begins at Auburn Campaign."

- The introduction of new curricular innovations, such as an interdisciplinary master's degree in real estate development, a supply chain management major, more online courses and a required international experience in all on-campus graduate programs.

- The launch of the Office of Professional and Career Development and three specialized centers — TIGER (Trading, Investment and Global Economic Research) Lab, Center for Ethical Organizations and Center for International Finance and Global Competitiveness.

- A boost in academic reputation, most notably a 15-place jump to No. 24 for public undergraduate programs by U.S. News and World Report.

At the University of Dayton, Bobrowski will lead the largest private business school in Ohio. For six years, the school's MBA program has made The Princeton Review's best business schools list. The school also offers nine undergraduate degree programs. It enrolls nearly 20 percent of the University's undergraduate students, who are taught by approximately 100 full-time and adjunct faculty. The University's entrepreneurship program consistently ranks in the nation's top 15, and the school is home to Flyer Enterprises, one of the largest student-run businesses in the country. In the Davis Center for Portfolio Management, undergraduates are responsible for one of the top 15 student-managed portfolios in the country and rub shoulders with the biggest names on Wall Street through the annual R.I.S.E. global investment forum. Undergraduate and MBA students tackle projects for hundreds of local companies and develop strategic plans for non-profits.

Before Bobrowski joined Auburn University, he spent 14 years at Syracuse University. As associate dean for three years, he oversaw the MBA and M.S. programs. He also taught operations management and other business courses at the University of
Oregon and Indiana University. His nine-year stint in the Air Force, where he was a captain, included four years in Los Angeles working on the Navstar Global Positioning System. He earned an M.S. in management from Purdue University and a Ph.D. in operations management from Indiana University.

Bobrowski’s family includes wife Paula, associate dean of research, faculty development and graduate studies at Auburn University; four children; and seven grandchildren.

He succeeds interim dean Joseph Castellano, an accounting professor who served after former dean Matthew Shank accepted the presidency at Marymount University. Donna Street, Mahrt chair in accounting, and Tom Breitenbach, a trustee and former chief executive of Premier Health Partners, co-chaired the search committee.

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