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New Education Dean Named

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The University of Dayton has named Kevin R. Kelly, who recently served as interim dean of the College of Education at Purdue University, to lead the University's School of Education and Allied Professions.

Kelly is expected to begin the role May 1, 2010.

"Dr. Kelly impressed the campus community with his range of experience, strategic planning skills, strong record of scholarship and his commitment to advancing the University's leadership in urban and Catholic education," said University of Dayton Provost Joseph Saliba.

Kelly, who attended Catholic schools throughout his primary education, said joining a Catholic university will be a homecoming of sorts.

"On a personal level, the Marianist community and mission of the University — and the focus on social justice in a learning environment — is very attractive to me," he said. "The University of Dayton is a hard-working, dynamic, committed faith community."

He is also looking forward to working in the School of Education and Allied Professions "complex environment," which includes teacher education, education leadership, counselor education and health and sports science.

As a faculty member at Purdue, Kelly served as the founding training director for the counseling psychology doctoral program, which has grown to enroll the largest group of full-time doctoral students in Purdue's College of Education.

He helped bring the National Rural Educational Association to campus, an effort that helped attract support from the Woodrow Wilson Foundation for an initiative to prepare math and science teachers for rural schools. Kelly has also been involved in Purdue's P-12 STEM Initiative, a collaborative effort to create a nucleus of faculty devoted to developing large-scale research and engagement efforts in engineering and technology education.

As interim dean, he took on the strategic challenge of improving the College of Education's U.S. News & World Report ranking. It jumped 20 points in one year when he focused the college on making improvements in three areas: research expenditures, student selectivity and peer reputation.

He hopes to continue that success here.

"I'd like to see the University of Dayton continue to build the school's national profile in Catholic education," he said. "I'd also like to raise the scholarly profile of the school. We already have excellent scholars in the school; we need to find ways to nurture their growth and support them in their efforts to conduct high impact research. And third, I will be looking to build more international partnerships."

During his nearly 15-year tenure at Purdue, Kelly taught graduate-level courses in counseling and career theories and served as adviser on two dozen doctoral dissertations. He's written scores of nationally refereed journal articles and book chapters on topics ranging from career indecision of university students to counseling services for gifted youth. A psychologist by training, he served as editor of the Journal of Mental Health Counseling for six years.

Kelly holds a B.A. in psychology from Boston University and a Ph.D. in counseling psychology from the University of Iowa.

He will succeed Thomas J. Lasley II, who has served as dean since 1998. Lasley will remain with the University of Dayton as executive director of EDvention and be co-located with a corporate or education partner to be announced soon. EDvention is a collaborative dedicated to accelerating science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) talent to grow the Dayton region.

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