

New Dean Brings Wealth Of Experience In Higher Education

Elaine C. Collins, Ph.D. followed her family's roots back to Michigan and then followed her own professional calling to Grand Valley State University.

GVSU's School of Education recently announced the appointment of Collins as the new Dean of the School of Education.

"I am extremely honored to have been chosen as the Dean for the School of Education," Collins said. "I see the position as both a positive challenge and a calling."

"It's an enormous responsibility to educate the next generation of teachers to address today's educational challenges. For me, it is the most exciting job in higher education."

Collins brings a wealth of experience in higher education to GVSU. She replaces Anne Mulder, Ph.D. who served as Interim Dean of the School of Education for two years.

"Anne Mulder has done a great job with the School of Education," Collins said. "The infrastructure, such as the new mission, school reorganization and alliances with the community are in place. My job will be to build on the strong foundation she has created and move the school even further."

Collins has served in a variety of leadership positions in higher education.

Since 2000, Collins has been Dean of Arts and Sciences at West Shore Community College, overseeing liberal arts and sciences programs, budgets, personnel, faculty evaluations, strategic planning, student retention and faculty affairs.

"As a former dean of arts and sciences, I bring a unique perspective to the School of Education," Collins said. "I believe this broad background will allow me to work effectively with the many disciplines, programs, partners and professionals served by the School."

Prior to her stint at West Shore Community College, Collins served as Interim Vice President for Academic Affairs at Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts, where she had been the Dean of Academic Studies.

Throughout most of the 1990s, Collins served as an associate professor and then Chairperson and Certification Officer at North Adams State College in Massachusetts.

Collins noted that her leadership characteristics include:

- * Advocating for shared governance in an academic institution;
- * Introducing rather than imposing new ideas on campus;
- * Leading by pulling, rather than by pushing;
- * Inspiring rather than ordering; and
- * Enabling people to use their own initiative and experiences.

"My leadership style is based on consultation," she says. "I enjoy listening to and hearing people, then focusing individual and group energies toward solution of problems and accomplishments of tasks."



Education is a passion for Elaine C. Collins, Ph.D.

Collins has served on numerous boards and committees, including the West Shore Chapter of the American Red Cross, Optimist Club of Ludington, Scottville Chamber of Commerce, Women's Center Board of Directors, West Shore Humanities Council and United Way Youth Development Project.

She lists hiking, backpacking, canoeing and reading as hobbies, but said her real passion is education.

"First and foremost, I am an educator," Collins says.

Collins' mother grew up in Michigan and spent her summers vacationing in the Sault Ste. Marie area. Her grandfather owned a store in the Detroit area. Three years ago, her family relocated back to Michigan when she accepted the position at West Shore Community College in Scottville, Michigan.

Collins expects a smooth transition into her new position with the School of Education. She begins her tenure as the Dean of the School of Education on July 1, 2003.

The first order of business, she says, is to get to know people throughout the university, build trust, explore common issues, and understand the perspectives of those working the day-to-day operations in the School of Education.

"I am a high energy person, so I will hit the ground running," Collins said. "Grand Valley has extraordinary faculty, staff, and students. Their future is very bright and I'm excited to be a part of that future."



Ram Chattulani, Ph.D. has been a fixture around campus since 1973.

Three Professors Noted For 30 Years of Service

Three School of Education professors, whose affiliations with Grand Valley date back to the early 1970s, were recently commended for 30 years of service to the university.

Honored by GVSU and the School of Education were Ram Chattulani, Ph.D., Antonio Herrera, Ph.D. and Faite R-P Mack, Ph.D.

Chattulani is a founding member of the School of Education and has served in a variety of positions, including Director of Education.

Herrera created and implemented a variety of graduate programs, including Adult Secondary Education, Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL), International Global Education, and English, History and Physics Emphasis for the Masters of Education programs.

Another founding member of the School of Education, Mack is recognized as a Fulbright Scholar, an author of books and scholarly papers



Faite R-P Mack, Ph.D.



Antonio Herrera, Ph.D.

and has served the School of Education in both faculty and administrative roles.

In addition, Linda McCrea, Ed.D., was recognized for 10 years of service to the university. McCrea is the unit head for Curriculum and Instruction in the School of Education, and has taught both special education and elementary education courses, as well as numerous graduate courses.