



OFFICE *of the* PROVOST

Upcoming Organizational Changes in the Division of Academic Affairs

UWF Community,

Thank you all again for the warm welcome to the University of West Florida community. Each day continues to be a discovery of so many great things and great people. And as part of the discovery, I've been able to see where there are meaningful opportunities for UWF to take steps forward. Therefore, I want to share the following with all of you.

About one year ago the UWF School of Education was formed. Although great efforts have been made to secure leadership for the School of Education, we have not had success. Given this and other factors, we have decided to move the School out of the College of Education and Professional Studies (CEPS) to stand alone, thereby raising its institutional profile, including creating a direct reporting line to the Provost's Office. Creating a more prominent School of Education will better position us to seek a school director, and subsequent faculty, and also raise local and regional awareness of the School. Therefore, we will briefly pause the director search so we can re-launch with our new direction.

Second, as many of you know, we have a legislative request pending to start a Civil Engineering program, which has much in common with Construction Management, including shared research/lab space. Having these two programs in the same college is far more efficient and effective than having them in two colleges. This example of university-wide efficiency and effectiveness is what we are seeking with the upcoming changes, which will allow us to consider other natural partnerships where remaining programs in CEPS move to one of the other four academic colleges. These changes will not include elimination of any academic programs.

I plan to have the details of the organizational changes finalized by January 2024. To help facilitate a smooth transition, there will be meetings held with the affected departments to gather feedback on how best to make these structural changes. Additionally, near the end of the semester, I will host an open forum for all faculty and staff to talk more broadly about these changes and any other issues of interest.

I am honored to be part of the UWF team and look forward to working with everyone.

Gary Liguori

April 14, 2023

