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Press release : 2003 : 06 : 24 : Experience, Vision, Innovation: USF St. Petersburg Names New Associate VP of Student Affairs

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pbellis@spadmin.usf.edu**Experience, Vision, Innovation:****USF St. Petersburg Names New Associate VP of Student Affairs**

June 24, 2003 (St. Petersburg, Fla.) - With plans on the table to build new student housing, construct a student union facility and establish health services for the growing student body of USF St. Petersburg, the quest for a strong student advocate to serve as associate vice president of Student Affairs was indeed a challenge. "[Dr. Charles Brown](#) is exactly what the students were hoping for," said Student Government President Susan Sietsma upon the announcement of Brown's acceptance of the position.

"We had nearly 100 applicants," said Sietsma, also a member of the search committee charged with identifying the right candidate. "Dr. Brown had exceptional qualifications and hands-on experience with nearly every project USF St. Petersburg has pending," said Sietsma.

"I am very excited to have the opportunity to work with Dr. Brown," said Gary A. Olson, interim associate vice president for Academic Affairs. "I am looking forward to a strong and productive partnership between Academic Affairs and Student Affairs. Dr. Brown and I share the same vision of making USF St. Petersburg a stronger institution and meeting the needs of our students and our community."

"This is an exciting opportunity for me," said Brown. "I look forward to working with the new administration, the faculty and staff, and especially with the students. I was deeply impressed by the excitement that was evident among USF St. Petersburg's students and their student leaders. The university has plans for building a residents hall, a new student union, and of course, the Barnes and Noble Bookstore and parking garage complex. All these things contribute to the sense of community on a campus and they were all elements that influenced my final decision. But, I believe it is the students who make an institution and it was their excitement that made me decide to accept this position."

Finding the right person for the position of associate vice president of Student Affairs was high on the university's priority list. With the student body of USF St. Petersburg growing faster than ever before, finding a strong student advocate was imperative. Applications for enrollment in USF St. Petersburg exceed last year's numbers by more than 65 percent. Such rapid growth would be challenging to any university, but USF St. Petersburg is staying one step ahead of the demands and facing the future with anticipation and a sense of promise.

In order to meet the students' needs and manage issues that affect student life, the university sought a person with vision, experience and a history of successfully implementing student-focused programs. USF St. Petersburg is confident they have found that individual in Brown.

"Dr. Brown has an extensive background in student and academic affairs and will be a dynamic associate vice president for Student Affairs," said Olson. "USF St. Petersburg is experiencing unprecedented growth and program expansion. Dr. Brown's experience in policy development, strategic planning and program enhancement will, undoubtedly prove to benefit both the students and the university. We are very pleased that Dr. Brown is joining the leadership team of USF St. Petersburg."

Brown comes to USF St. Petersburg from Wayne State University in Detroit, Michigan, where he held the position of Vice President of Student Development and Campus Life. He was also an associate professor in their College of Education. While at Wayne, his responsibilities included overseeing student government, judicial affairs, the student newspaper, Women's Resource Services, the Volunteerism Service Office, leadership development, student union, and housing and residential life.

Prior to his position at Wayne, he was senior associate vice president for Student Affairs at the University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa, director of the Academic Advancement Office at the University of Delaware in Newark, associate director of the High Potential Students Program at Illinois State University and service specialist counselor and instructor at Illinois Central Community College.

Achievements during his career attest to his dedication to student affairs. His administrative accomplishments include reorganization of the Office of Scholarships and Financial Aid, the Office of Admissions, and the Union Center Operation where he created the first Dean of Students Office to better serve and support student organizations and campus life.

A prolific writer of articles and book chapters including *The Impact of Campus Activities and Organizations: A Case Study of African American Males on a White College Campus*, *Diversity in Decision-Making: Minority Faculty Involvement in Student Affairs*, and *Alcohol and Drug Use at a Southern University*.

Brown believes strongly in community involvement and has been an active member of many community-based organization in the Metro-Detroit area.

After receiving his bachelor's degree in sociology and education from Blackburn College in Carlinville, Illinois, Brown attended Illinois State University and earned his master's in education administration. He remained at ISU and received his doctorate in philosophy in education with special emphasis on higher education administration. He also attended the Management Development Program at Harvard University School of Education.

— *USF St. Petersburg* —

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