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Durand Becomes New Chief of Academic Affairs

June 29, 2005 11:42AM EST

Starting Friday, July 1, V. Mark Durand, PhD, will take the helm as Regional Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs. Durand has served as Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences since its founding in 2003.

Durand takes over for James Malek, PhD, who served as the interim Regional Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs since fall 2004.

Regional Chancellor Karen A. White said, "In his first two years at USF St. Petersburg, Dr. Durand was respected by colleagues for his academic leadership, teaching acumen, and research accomplishments. In his interviews for the position of Regional Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, Dr. Durand impressed the campus community with his knowledge of our campus and his vision for its future."

In this position, he is responsible for academic strategic planning, undergraduate and graduate academic programs and procedures, oversight and compliance with institutional and state guidelines, as well as regional and national accreditation criteria.

He will also supervise the college deans, the Poynter Library, the Director of Institutional Research and Effectiveness, the Associate Vice Chancellor for Research and Community Partnerships, the Director of University Computer Systems and the Dean of Enrollment Services, including the functions of admissions, registration, enrollment management, academic advising, financial aid, veteran's services, student recruitment and retention.

Durand said, "I want to thank the campus community for its warm response to my appointment as Vice Chancellor. The sincere good wishes from so many people help me realize why students have such an affection for this campus and its people. I am honored to have been chosen to help continue the exciting agenda before us."

Known worldwide as an authority in the area of developmental disabilities, Durand's expertise and creativity are evidenced in his many groundbreaking accomplishments. In addition to writing several best-selling textbooks on abnormal psychology - one is used in more than 330 universities worldwide - he has received about \$4 million in federal research and training grants. His research includes functional communication, assistive technology, home-school training, and improving the problem behaviors of children and adults with autism and other severe disabilities.

Before accepting the deanship at USF St. Petersburg, Durand served as chair of the psychology department and interim dean of Arts and Sciences at the University of Albany - The State University of New York where he received the University Award for Excellence in Teaching in 1991. He also directed the Center for Autism and Related Disabilities. He received his bachelor's degree, master's and Ph.D. - all in psychology - at the State University of New York - Stony Brook.

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