

Elliott to replace Cardwell as interim vice provost in St. Pete

By Nancy McCann
CONTRIBUTOR

Deni Elliott, a media ethicist who has taught journalism at USF St. Petersburg since 2003, will become the campus' interim vice provost and regional associate vice chancellor of academic affairs.

She replaces Catherine Cardwell, who departed last month to become the dean of university libraries at the University of Nevada, Reno.

Elliott will serve in her new post for one year, Regional Chancellor Martin Tadlock told the St. Petersburg Campus Board in his announcement of the appointment on July 20.

He said she "delayed her plans, which included retirement" to accept the position.

"We're fortunate to have Deni . . . and you'll learn a lot more about her," Tadlock said.

The news of Elliott's appointment comes at an uneasy time for the St. Petersburg campus, which is still adjusting to consolidation. Tadlock himself is stepping down at the end of the year, and President Steve Currall jolted the USF community on July 19 by announcing that he is retiring Aug. 2 after just two

years as president.

Elliott is a nationally known media ethicist who has published more than 200 articles and book chapters.

She earned a bachelor's in mass communications from the University of Maryland, a master's in philosophy from Wayne State University and a doctorate from Harvard University's Graduate School of Education.

Before coming to USF St. Petersburg in 2003, she taught at Utah State University, Dartmouth College and the University of Montana. Elliott began losing her eyesight in her 30s, and over the years her guide dogs have become well-publicized campus fixtures.

Cardwell, who assumes her post in Nevada next month, came to USF St. Petersburg as dean of the Nelson Poynter Memorial Library in 2016.

She eventually became interim vice provost as well, helping lead the campus through the challenges of consolidation and the COVID-19 pandemic.

When he announced Cardwell's departure earlier this month, Tadlock called it "a huge loss for our campus and our St. Petersburg community."

"Cathi provided steady, reliable, innovative leadership that sometimes went unrecognized simply



COURTESY OF KRISTINE PAULSEI AND USF

Deni Elliott (left), a veteran media ethicist and journalism professor, will succeed Catherine Cardwell as USF St. Petersburg's regional associate vice chancellor for academic affairs for one year.

because of the quiet, confident approach she took while dealing with situations that were highly demanding and difficult," Tadlock said.

"She doesn't seek accolades or recognition for what she does; she dedicates herself to excellence and works unceasingly to accomplish what is best for the campus, the community

and her colleagues."

Elliott's new role will start on Aug. 9, according to an email sent to colleagues on July 20 from Tadlock and Provost Ralph Wilcox.

"Deni brings a wealth of experience and knowledge to the position," they wrote. "In addition to her duties as the Eleanor Poynter Jamison Chair of Media Ethics and

Press Policy and professor in the Department of Journalism and Digital Communications, she also serves as the Chief Project Officer for the National Ethics Project."

For Tadlock and Wilcox's full announcement, visit crowstestpete.com.

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