



Oakland University News Information Update

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Board of Trustees Offers Sandra Packard OU Presidency

Sandra Packard of the University of Tennessee-Chattanooga has been offered the presidency of Oakland University.

The university Board of Trustees selected Packard at its March 11 meeting before several hundred spectators in the Oakland Center Gold Rooms. Trustees cited Packard's academic leadership skills, planning abilities and polished presentation style during the nomination and discussion of the four finalists for the presidency. They noted she is an extremely articulate administrator who will be able to communicate well with all of the various university constituencies.

Other finalists were Richard S. Meyers, president of Western Oregon State College;

Past University Leaders

Chief executives in Oakland University's history have been the following:

- Durward B. "Woody" Varner – Appointed chancellor in 1959 when OU began as Michigan State University-Oakland. He served until 1970, when he resigned to become chancellor at the University of Nebraska. He later headed the University of Nebraska Foundation. Varner is now retired.
- Donald D. O'Dowd – Appointed chancellor in 1970 (title later changed to president). He served until 1979 when he resigned to become president of the University of Alaska. He is now retired.
- George T. Matthews – Served as interim president from 1979-81. Now professor emeritus of history.
- Joseph E. Champagne – President from 1981-91. Now president and chief executive officer of Crittenton Corp. in Rochester.
- John De Carlo – Has served as interim president since August 1, 1991.

Claire A. Van Ummersen, chancellor of the University System of New Hampshire; and Luis A. Proenza, vice chancellor for research and dean of the graduate school at the University of Alaska-Fairbanks. In all, 121 candidates had applied for the position.

Packard is provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs, and professor of curriculum and instruction at the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga. She has held the position since 1985.

In its official action, the board voted to offer the position to Packard. Immediately following the vote to select Packard, a phone call to her confirmed her continuing interest in the presidency. It will now be up to the board and the administration to agree to contract terms. If possible, a contract may be presented at the April board meeting.

Trustees chose Packard on the second ballot. The first ended with four votes for Packard by Larry Chunovich, Phyllis Googasian, David Handleman and Stephan Sharf; two for Meyers by Andrea Fischer and James Sharp, Jr.; and one for Van Ummersen by Chairperson Howard Sims. Five votes are necessary. On the second ballot, Sims changed his vote.

Sims asked for the board to affirm Packard by acclamation, giving her a 7-0 vote. Trustee L. Brooks Patterson was absent.

At UT-C, Packard is responsible for an annual budget of \$27 million. She initiated and raised funds to establish a \$3.5 million center for arts education. She co-raised funds for and established nine \$1 million endowed faculty chairs of excellence and established the College of Health and Human Services and the School of Social and Community Ser-

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Sandra Packard

Trustees cited Sandra Packard's academic leadership skills, her planning skills and her willingness to listen to others among the reasons for choosing her for the presidency.

vices. Under her direction, black faculty employment has risen more than 100 percent.

Packard received a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from Syracuse University and master's and doctoral degrees in art education from Indiana University.

Packard previously worked at Bowling Green State University and the University of Miami.

The board also thanked Interim President John De Carlo for his work in leading the university. He officially became interim president on August 1 when Joseph

E. Champagne resigned to accept a position with Crittenton Corp. in Rochester.▼

More complete details on the board meeting and President-Designate Packard will be included in the regular March 20 issue of the Oakland University News.