



New dean an NKU veteran

By Howard McEwen • Enquirer contributor • April 24, 2010

HIGHLAND HEIGHTS - Samuel J. Zachary has been named the new dean of Northern Kentucky University's College of Arts and Sciences.

"When I came to NKU 21 years ago, the college felt to me like an energized place of teaching and learning, and it still does," said Zachary. "But now it's a much larger and more complicated, demanding, and rigorous college, and that brings with it great challenges for all of us who work hard to keep it focused sharply on student learning. The wondrous part is that we're able to do so in a collaborative, mutually respectful and productive way."

Zachary is taking leadership of NKU's largest college. The College of Arts and Sciences has 13 departments serving 5,000 undergraduates and 200 graduate students. They are taught by 215 tenure track faculty, 110 lecturers and almost 275 adjunct instructors who together teach approximately 1,400 classes dealing with 38 different majors and 43 minors.

"The college grows larger all the time but finds exciting new ways to remain responsive to the personal needs of our students," said Zachary. "We are a nurturing college filled with faculty who devote themselves totally to the well-being of our students."

Zachary said that he would like to work with his department chairs to align and unify the college.

he does as the new dean.

"Many changes will result from rather severe economic pressures that impact education across the country," he said. "We'll work hard to adapt to these pressures, to absorb them, and to sustain the high quality of our programming. I hope we'll do that in a mutually appreciative way, knowing that the college community, as a whole, is stronger than individual departments which comprise it."

Zachary earned his M.A. (1973) and Ph.D. (1984) in theater from Bowling Green State University. He joined NKU's Department of Theatre and Dance at NKU in 1990. In 2005 he became the college's associate dean and was named interim dean of the college in 2009.

"People used to say that NKU was the best kept secret in the region," he said. "I think that referred to the 'private university education at a public university cost' as one of my colleagues used to say. Well, we're not so much a secret anymore. Students from all over the region who used to leave the area to attend big name universities across the country are now opting first for NKU."

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