

UL LAFAYETTE NAMES FIRST PROVOST

What are a provost's duties? It's no wonder that Dr. Steve Landry is often asked that question. He's the first provost in the University of Louisiana at Lafayette's 110-year history.

Landry has served as the university's vice president for Academic Affairs since 2000 and will retain that position in addition to his provost responsibilities. As vice president for Academic Affairs, he is responsible for the general direction of UL Lafayette's instruction, research and outreach activities.

As provost, Landry is the senior academic administrator and senior vice president on campus. He will coordinate academic affairs, student affairs, research, advancement and administration.

"It's almost like a chief operating officer in a company," he said of his added role.

Landry has a broad view of the university that is based, in part, on his career at UL Lafayette. Prior to being named vice president for Academic Affairs, he was the university's vice president for Research. Landry had previously served as director of Research and Sponsored Programs. He is a former associate professor and department head in Computer Science and the Center for Advanced Computer Studies. He also served as director of the university's Computing Center.

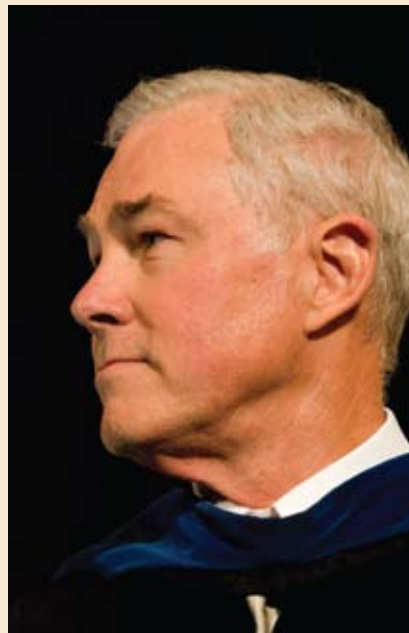
"Each one of these positions has influenced the way I see the university today and how I see what it could become. I've gained a wonderful perspective," Landry said.

As vice president for Academic Affairs, Landry led the seven-year transition that gradually strengthened admissions criteria. He assisted with the development of an accelerated option track in nursing that enables students with four-year degrees in other disciplines to obtain a bachelor's degree in nursing through a fast track. He also led the development and implementation of the university's partnership with the Lafayette Parish School System and other district systems for dual enrollment of high school students.

UL Lafayette President Dr. Joseph Savoie said Landry's

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DR. E. JOSEPH SAVOIE, PRESIDENT



Dr. Steve Landry

experience in higher education makes him a perfect fit for the provost position. "He is a distinguished leader and is highly regarded across the campus and throughout the community."

One of Landry's duties is helping to recruit outstanding faculty. "We're always trying to get the best who can teach and conduct research," he said.

Landry said the scope of his responsibilities is reflected in the people he interacts with each day and the variety of projects and activities that he is involved with on behalf of the university.

"One minute, I'll be talking with students who come to my office," he said. His voice drops a little and he offers an aside, with a smile: "They're either in trouble or they're doing something magnificent."

He continued: "The next minute, we may be talking with the city-parish president or a legislator about a work force initiative. Three hours later, I could be talking with a faculty member and later meet with someone who has donated money to the university for a scholarship."

Creation of the provost position is one of several modifications of the university's administrative structure that have been made since Savoie became UL Lafayette's president.

For instance, Dr. Carolyn Bruder is now associate vice president for Academic Affairs. She had previously served as assistant vice president for Academic Affairs.

"She is a miracle worker," Landry said. "She is a former faculty member and department head. She has also been engaged in the university's accreditation reviews by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools and the NCAA. So, she has a breadth of experience that's almost unmatched on campus."

Landry said it's critical for the university to have a team of strong deans. "It makes a huge difference when you have good colleagues, all of whom have good experience and intentions."

But all university personnel have a key role, he continued. "My job is to be a team builder. One of the most important things that all of us do is recruit and retain the right faculty and staff, so that we can recruit and retain the best students. This really is a people business." ■