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Press release : 2002 : 05 : 06 : USF St. Petersburg appoints first woman dean

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USF St. Petersburg appoints first woman dean

ST. PETERSBURG, FLA. (May 6, 2002) -- The University of South Florida St. Petersburg has made history with a pair of “firsts:” The campus has appointed its first dean since being granted autonomy last year. That first dean is a woman.

Kathy Arsenault, director of the Nelson Poynter Memorial Library, has been appointed Dean of the Library by Vice President and Campus Executive Officer Bill Heller.

"I feel very strongly that the Poynter Library is the academic heart of this campus and its governance deserves dean-level status,” Heller said. "Mrs. Arsenault has done the job well. So it’s a win-win all along."

The appointment also marks the first time a USF regional campus library is governed by a dean.

Arsenault was named library director eight months ago after serving as acting director since 1999. She had been director of the library’s special collections section since joining the university in 1982. Her appointment is effective in June.

She received a master’s degree in library science from Simmons College and a bachelor’s degree in English from Wellesley College.

Heller will soon begin a national search for deans for the colleges of education, business administration, and arts and sciences. That search will begin when the university receives notification of its separate accreditation from the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools.
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