

The Columbus Dispatch

Ohio's Greatest Online Newspaper

14th leader selected for Ohio Dominican

School is 'marvelous fit,' new president says

Friday, March 14, 2008 3:28 AM

BY CHARLIE BOSS
THE COLUMBUS DISPATCH

The new Ohio Dominican University president being announced today is a man with a background in Catholic higher education and strategic planning.

Brian P. Nedwek, vice president of academic affairs at Maryville University in St. Louis, will replace the interim president, the Rev. James A. Griffin, as leader of the 3,100-student Roman Catholic school on Sunbury Road.

Nedwek, 66, will be the university's 14th president. He called the move a "marvelous fit."

"A strong part of my background was in strategic planning," said Nedwek, a former president of the Society for College and University Planning. "I could continue the work for the wonderful foundation that has been laid."

Ohio Dominican is in the middle of a five-year plan to increase student enrollment and strengthen the university's identity. It also is expanding physically with construction of its first student center and a new residence hall, both of which are to open this fall.

"It's a place with a very, very bright future," said Nedwek, who plans to visit the campus today to sign his contract. Officials did not release details, including his salary.

Nedwek's experience in Catholic education and his interest in strategic planning fit the university's needs, said Monsignor Joseph H. Hendricks, chairman of the board of trustees.

Nedwek joined Maryville in 2004 after stints at St. John's University in New York and the University of Detroit Mercy.

Maryville, a 3,400-student liberal-arts school, was founded by a Roman Catholic religious order before becoming an independent university. There, he was vice president of academic affairs. He also served as Maryville's acting president from March 2006 through July and had been a candidate to stay on as president.



Brian P. Nedwek, 66, comes to the expanding university with a background in strategic planning.

ON THE WEB

- [Read the resume of Brian P. Nedwek, the new president of Ohio Dominican University \[pdf\].](#)

While at Maryville, Nedwek led the university to reaccreditation, began rebuilding the honors program and launched a systemwide academic review. Most recently, he helped develop a first-year experience program to bolster retention and student engagement.

He also spurred the creation of the Black Box Theatre and created a partnership with the St. Louis Symphony, which started outreach programs.

Nedwek and his wife, Judith, have two daughters who live in Cleveland.

Griffin, a retired bishop of the Columbus Catholic Diocese, will continue his duties until Nedwek assumes the post July 1. Griffin has been serving as interim president since Jack Calareso left to lead Anna Maria College, a private Catholic school in Paxton, Mass.

cboss@dispatch.com

On the Web • See the resume of Brian P. Nedwek, the new president of Ohio Dominican University, at Dispatch.com/web.

Copyright © 2008, The Columbus Dispatch
