McCluskey-Fawcett to Assist Top Students

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The senior vice provost, one of KU's most experienced academic administrators, has announced she will leave her post June 30 to work with the university's best and brightest undergraduates.

Kathleen McCluskey-Fawcett, who has served KU at the dean and vice provost levels for 19 years, will become an honors faculty fellow at the University Honors Program, a hub for more than 1,200 of KU's top student scholars.

"The University of Kansas has benefited enormously from Kathleen's administrative talents and her commitment to stay at KU," said Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor Richard Lariviere. "We will miss her presence in administration, but the education of our honors students is of vital importance, and Kathleen has much to offer as a mentor and a teacher."

Lariviere said he will initiate an internal search for a successor.

Next academic year, McCluskey-Fawcett will teach an honors class in child psychology, an honors tutorial and a "learning communities" course. She also will advise honors students.

McCluskey-Fawcett, who has taught every year while serving in top administration, said her new position will be invigorating.

"Administrative work is rewarding, but I have thought long and hard about what would be most challenging for my next venture," said McCluskey-Fawcett. "Young, bright minds propel this university, and I can think of nothing more stimulating than to be a mentor and teacher for our top undergraduates."

Stanley Lombardo, director of the University Honors Program and professor of classics, said, "Kathleen has supported the honors program from the day she arrived at KU. We're absolutely delighted that she will join us."

Among McCluskey-Fawcett's accomplishments in the provost's office are establishing the University Advising Center and the Center for Service Learning; re-establishing the Kansas office for the Washington, D.C.-based Office of Women in Higher Education, a component of the American Council on Education; and directing KU's senior administrative fellows.

McCluskey-Fawcett was named senior vice provost for academic affairs in 2002, a promotion from her position of associate provost, to which she had been appointed in 1996. In 2001, she took a one-year leave to serve as interim dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

McCluskey-Fawcett previously had been associate vice chancellor for academic affairs from 1993 to 1996, associate dean of the College from 1989 to 1993 and chair of the Department of Psychology from 1986 to 1989. Before coming to KU, she chaired the psychology department at West Virginia University.

McCluskey-Fawcett came to KU in 1985 as a visiting associate professor of psychology and a research associate for the Bureau of Child Research.

A 1971 graduate of the University of Minnesota, she earned a master's degree in child development and a doctorate in developmental and child psychology from KU.

In fall 1999, McCluskey-Fawcett was a visiting scholar with the American Psychological Association. In 1998 and 2001, she received the Outstanding Educator Award from Mortar Board and the College's J. Michael Young Academic Advisor Award. In 1987, she was elected to the KU Women's Hall of Fame.