

President's Memorandum to Faculty and Staff

Office of the President
February 22, 2012

It is my pleasure to announce that Dr. David M. Rosen has accepted my offer to serve as the next president of Kendall College of Art and Design. Dr. Rosen will assume the presidency of Kendall in July from Oliver Evans, who led the college in an extraordinary fashion for 18 years. Dr. Rosen was the clear choice of Kendall's faculty, staff and search committee and I very much look forward to his joining our leadership team. I am confident that President Rosen will continue the upward trajectory of Kendall College.

Dr. Rosen earned his bachelor degree from Haverford College and both his masters and doctorate from Johns Hopkins University. For the past nine years he has served as Senior Vice President and Vice President for Academic Affairs at Woodbury University, a private college in Burbank, Los Angeles and San Diego that specializes in art, architecture, media, design and business. Woodbury's education has received regional and national recognition for its focus on innovation, creativity and forward-thinking leadership.

Before joining Woodbury University, David served for twenty-three years at the University of Maine - Machias. Beginning as a faculty member in English and drama, he was recognized with their Excellence in Teaching Award, earning a position as full tenured professor. At Machias he served six years as the chair of arts and letters, three years as vice president for academic affairs, and briefly as interim president.

His accomplishments at Woodbury University include co-authoring and coordinating various grants and awards including a five-year, \$3.1 million Title V grant to develop new majors in film making, game art and design, and media technology; a five-year, \$2.8 million Promoting Post-baccalaureate Opportunities for Hispanic Americans grant to develop five new graduate programs in architecture; and a three-year, \$600,000 HUD grant to develop an Arid Lands Institute that uses a transdisciplinary model to link environmental science and design to help solve problems of aridity in the west. He also helped secure the Ray Bradbury Center for Creativity, the sole university legacy site authorized by the acclaimed writer. Woodbury University successfully launched three new graduate programs in architecture in the past two years and a film making program this fall.

Under his leadership, Woodbury University was recognized in *Colleges of Distinction 2011* for its engaged students, great teaching, vibrant community, and successful outcomes, and was named best small masters university in advancing Hispanic, low-income, and minority students by the National Education Trust. It was ranked 16th among 551 master's universities in adding value to its students' education by the *Washington Monthly*. The Interior Architecture program was ranked 10th in the nation and the School of Architecture was rated best in Los Angeles in 2010. Its undergraduate program was named the outstanding program for Hispanic students in 2008 and ranked fourth in class in retention and graduation according to a 2009 Gates Foundation study. As Academic Vice President, Dr. Rosen led successful efforts for initial National Association of Schools of Art Design accreditation in 2008, and candidacy for initial accreditation by the American Association of Colleges of Schools of Business.

Additionally, he has directed various academic and small theater productions, including *Art*, *The Fool*, and *King Lear*, which starred James Gammon. He founded the Maine Youth Summer Theater Institute and the Burbank Youth Summer Theater Institute. His publications

include *The Changing Fictions of Masculinity* (University of Illinois Press) and “The Volcano and the Cathedral” in *Muscular Christianity: Embodying the Victorian Age*, (Cambridge University Press). His most recent fiction, “Mirror Pond,” appeared in *Portland Magazine*. His one published rock song, “Valerie,” appeared on Greg Kihn’s album *Rock Kihn Roll*.

I want to express special thanks to the Kendall presidency search committee. This was an exceptional group, ably chaired by the leader of the Kendall Senate, Chair of Kendall Senate Cindy Todd and Max Shangle, Dean of the College. The members of the search committee included –

Barb Boltman, Executive Assistant to the Kendall President
Sandy Britton, Director of Enrollment Management
Claudia Bruce, Student, Art History
Patricia Constantine, Associate Professor of Fine Arts
Nicole Dekraker, Coordinator of Student Activities
Brent Hulbert, Assistant to the Director of the Physical Plant
Jon McDonald, Professor of Illustration
Phil Renato, Associate Professor of Metals and Jewelry Design
Ron Riksen, Professor of Graphic Design
Val Schneider, Principal, Via Design and Kendall Alumnus
Olivia Snyder, Professor of Interior Design

I also want to thank all of the Kendall faculty, staff, and students who attended the candidate interviews and provided input on this selection process.

As we welcome David Rosen to Kendall College and his family to Grand Rapids, I want to pause and thank Oliver Evans. Much of what the Kendall College of Art and Design is today, and certainly its association with Ferris State University, is a direct result of his leadership and engagement. At a time when the future of Kendall College was uncertain he showed the courage to forge a new partnership and path for the College. The current success and the incredibly bright future for Kendall demonstrate the wisdom of those decisions and his strong leadership.

Congratulations to Kendall College of Art and Design on the selection of its next president and to the individual who will lead the next chapter of this remarkable institution, Dr. David Rosen.

Sincerely,

David L. Eisler, President