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(Neb)-Current Dean One Of 3 Finalists For VP Of Academic Affairs At CSC

By: John Axtell Posted at: 10/30/2019 05:37 PM
Photo - Daniel Binkard/CSC

CHADRON - Chadron State College has chosen 3 finalists to succeed the retiring Dr Charles Snare as Vice President for Academic Affairs, and one of them is a current CSC administrator.

Dean of Professional Studies and Applied Sciences Dr James Powell was chosen from a field of more than 20 applicants along with Dr Daniel Donaldson, Dean of Profession Studies at National University in La Jolla, Calif, and Dr Karen Meisch, Interim Dean of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics at Austin Peay in Clarksville, Tenn.

All 3 will make campus visits in the next 2 weeks for interviews with the search committee, meetings with President Randy Rhine and the President's Cabinet, and separate forums with faculty, staff from Academic Affairs, and student representatives.

Donaldson's campus trip is next Tuesday, Powell will have his interview day next Thursday, and Meisch will visit Chadron on Tuesday Nov 12.

Dr Daniel Donaldson

Daniel Donaldson has more than 15 years of academic administration experience and earned all 3 of his degrees in Geography - Bachelor's and Master's from California State University-Fullerton and doctorate from Kent State University in Ohio.

Donaldson served in four roles at the University of Central Oklahoma from 2003 to 2009, Associate Professor of History and Geography, Associate Dean of Liberal Arts, Assistant Vice President for Academic Affairs, and Assistant Vice President for Professional and Distance Education.

He then served as Associate Professor of Geography and Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs at Park University in Parkville, Mo, before becoming the founding Dean for the School of Professional Studies at National University

Dr Karen Meisch

Karen Meisch has both teaching and administrative experience at the college level after earning her Bachelor's in Biology at Ashland University in Ohio and her Ph.D. in Biological Sciences at Vanderbilt University in Nashville.

She has held various roles at Austin Peay since 2007, starting as an Assistant Professor and later Associate Professor of Biology. She was the Assistant Chair of the Biology Department before serving as Associate Dean of the College of Science and Mathematics at Austin Peay from 2014-17. She's been the Interim Dean of STEM since then.

Dr James Powell

Prior to becoming a Dean at CSC, James Powell was a Professor and Director of the School of Education at Ferris State University in Big Rapids, Michigan, for three years. He received both his Bachelor's degree in English Education and his Master's in Linguistics with a specialization in Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages from Ball State University in Indiana.

Powell began his teaching career as a middle school teacher in Indiana before earning a Ph.D. in Curriculum and Instruction from Arizona State University. He was an Assistant Professor at Ball State for 13 years and the Professor and Chair of Teaching and Learning at the University of Alaska-Anchorage for six years before joining the Ferris State administration.