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YSU NEWS

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Dr. Cynthia Hirtzel named first woman dean of YSU's College of Engineering and Technology.

YOUNGSTOWN, Ohio--- Dr. Cynthia S. Hirtzel, a former provost and vice-president for academic affairs at the State University of New York at Plattsburgh, has been named the first woman dean of the William Rayen College of Engineering and Technology at Youngstown State University.

She will assume the top administrator role of the 1,100-student department on July 1, succeeding the retiring Dr. Charles A. Stevens, who has served as dean since 1995.

"Dr. Hirtzel will bring to her role an outstanding academic and administrative background to lead the College of Engineering and Technology to the next level of academic distinction," said Dr. Tony Atwater, provost and vice-president for academic affairs at YSU. "Her vision for leading the college is highly congruent with our mission of excellence in teaching and learning and our role as a comprehensive urban university."

Hirtzel, currently a professor of physics at SUNY's Plattsburgh campus, was its provost and vice-president for academic affairs from 1998 to 2001. She was also interim dean of the School of Business and Economics at SUNY, and prior to that served as dean of the College of Engineering and professor in the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering at Temple University in Philadelphia from 1995 to 1998.

"I feel excited and privileged to be joining the Rayen College of Engineering and Technology as its new dean. The programs, staff, faculty and students in the college are all strong," Hirtzel deemed. "These current strengths, of course, provide a basis and potential for future growth. During my visit, everyone I met with was wonderful and the campus is beautiful and student-friendly."

Stevens said Hirtzel "brings excellent credentials to the job, especially her past experience as an engineering dean, her academic training and teaching background in the field."

There are reportedly only six or seven women serving in the dean's capacity at any engineering schools in the country.

Prior to her stay at Temple University, Hirtzel was professor and chair of the Department of Chemical Engineering and Material Science at Syracuse University. Her career in higher education began in 1981 as a faculty member of the operations research and statistics program and as an assistant professor in the Department of Chemical and Environmental Engineering at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Troy, New York.

Hirtzel earned a doctorate (1980) and master's degree (1977) both in civil and environmental engineering from Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois. Her bachelor's degree was in mathematics from Washington University in St. Louis, Mo. in 1973.

YSU's first woman engineering dean has received several of foundation and fellowship awards in her consulting and membership activities, and is affiliated with the American Association of State Colleges and Universities; the American Society for Engineering Education; the American Institute of Chemical Engineers and the American Chemical Society.

Hirtzel also published a book, "Colloidal Phenomena: Advanced Topics", in 1985 and has authored journal articles, research publications and training manuals.