

Arts and Sciences dean takes post at Bradley University

Robert Bolla has submitted his letter of resignation as dean of the College of Arts and Sciences at Youngstown State University.

Bolla, former chair of biology at St. Louis University who came to YSU in July 2002, will leave June 1 to assume the position of dean of the graduate school and vice provost for research at Bradley University in Peoria, Ill.

Tony Atwater, YSU provost and vice president for academic affairs, said a committee will be named to conduct a national search for Bolla's replacement.

Bolla said it will be difficult to leave YSU. "The YSU faculty in the College of Arts and Sciences are the most talented, hardest working and most dedicated faculty I have ever worked with," Bolla said. "It is a faculty with an understanding that the academic mission of teaching, scholarship and service must have a level of excellence to provide outstanding educational opportunities for YSU students. Their talents go beyond the classroom and reach into the community."

Bolla was one of the leaders in the establishment of the Youngstown Early College, a high school aimed at

giving students a head start on college. YEC, which opened in August in Fedor Hall on the YSU campus, is the only school of its kind on a public university campus in Ohio.

Bolla said he was attracted to the job at Bradley because of his interest in graduate education and long career in research, particularly agriculture research.

"The largest USDA lab in the United States is in Peoria, and I will have the opportunity to establish research collaborations with researchers at the USDA lab to continue my research on dietary supplementation for livestock," he said.