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University of California Office of the President
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UC President Mark G. Yudof names acting chancellor for UC Riverside

University of California President Mark G. Yudof announced today (Nov. 20) that he has selected Jane Close Conoley, dean of UC Santa Barbara’s Gevirtz Graduate School of Education, to serve as acting chancellor of UC Riverside.

The appointment will be effective upon approval by the UC Board of Regents. Dean Conoley will serve until the appointment of a successor to Chancellor Timothy White, who will become chancellor of the California State University system at the end of December. Conoley’s official appointment will begin Dec. 31, the day after Chancellor White steps down.

“Jane Conoley is an established leader and scholar who cares deeply about providing access to opportunity for those who aspire to higher education,” Yudof said. “We’re very pleased that she has agreed to serve the UC Riverside community in this vital role.”

Conoley, a professor of counseling, clinical and school psychology at the Gevirtz Graduate School of Education, became dean in January 2006 after serving for 10 years as dean of the College of Education and Human Development at Texas A&M University, where she was a professor of educational psychology.

“I am very pleased that Jane Conoley will serve UCR as interim Chancellor,” White said. “She has a keen interest in advancing UCR’s strategic goals, supporting our students and engaging with our community. Her combination of experience and enthusiasm will serve UCR well during this time of transitional leadership.”

The author or editor of 21 books, Conoley was the Edith S. Greer Professor of Educational Psychology at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln in 1996; she had chaired the Department of Educational Psychology from 1989 to 1994 and served as associate dean for research and curriculum at the university’s Teachers College from 1994 to 1996. She also taught educational psychology as a faculty member at Syracuse University and Texas Woman’s University between 1976 and 1996.

“I am thrilled and honored to have the opportunity to serve as acting chancellor for UCR, a dynamic and forward-looking institution that has rightly received national recognition for its commitment to student success,” Conoley said. “I’m eager to meet with faculty and students. I’m sure I will learn much from my association with UCR.”

Neither Yudof nor Conoley will comment further until the regents act on her appointment next week.