

Dean Prilleltensky Steps Down After 11 Years of Service

After 11 years of distinguished service, Isaac Prilleltensky has decided to step down as dean of the School of Education and Human Development (SEHD) to devote more time to his scholarly work. He will relinquish the deanship at the end of the 2017 fall semester to begin a sabbatical and work on a new book. At the conclusion of the sabbatical, he will resume his duties at UM as Vice Provost for Institutional Culture, Professor of Educational and Psychological Studies, and Erwin and Barbara Mautner Chair in Community Well-Being.

Speaking to faculty and staff at an August 25 planning session, Prilleltensky said, "I have loved every minute of my work with you, but I miss my academic work, and I believe our school is in a strong position to receive a new dean."

During his sabbatical, Associate Vice-Provost for Institutional Culture, Professor Laura Kohn-Wood, will oversee the functions of the Office of Institutional Culture. The search for a new School of Education and Human Development dean is already under way.

Known for his care and concern for students, faculty, and staff, Prilleltensky kept a close eye on the school after Hurricane Irma in September, offering his help to anyone in need and making sure the buildings and classrooms were safe and functioning after the storm.

Since becoming dean in 2006, Prilleltensky instituted a number of new and successful programs, including an undergraduate major in Human and Social Development, master's programs in Community and Social Change, Education and Social Change, Physical Fitness and Nutrition, and an online Sport Administration

graduate program. He also established a Community Well-Being Ph.D. and reinstated a Higher Education master's and Ed.D. A state-approved professional training option for education minors was developed, and an online graduate program in Applied Learning Sciences will begin classes during 2018.



Under his leadership, The Dunspaugh-Dalton Community and Educational Well-Being Research Center was established. He doubled the square footage and consolidated the school's physical facilities from seven buildings across campus into two buildings, and unified the school's three departments under a single vision and mission. Under his leadership the SEHD focused on the study, promotion and integration of educational, physical, and psychological well-being in multicultural communities.

While serving as dean, Prilleltensky maintained an active research program, developing and validating tools for measuring and enhancing well-being, including the development of Fun for Wellness, an online program now available to all UM employees. Since

joining UM in 2006, Prilleltensky's scholarly work has been recognized by the American Psychological Association with three awards: Distinguished Contributions to Theory and Research in Community Psychology, Life Achievement Award in Prevention by the Division of Counseling Psychology, and the John Kalafat Award for Practice in Community Psychology. In 2015 Prilleltensky won an award for his humor writing by the National Newspaper Association for his columns in Miami Today.

"Please join me in thanking Isaac for his outstanding service to the school and our University," said Jeffrey L. Duerk, executive vice president and provost. We wish him the very best for his sabbatical and look forward to his continued vital role in our community upon his return."

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