



Van Zyl Named New USF School of Social Work Director



Michiel (Riaan) van Zyl, PhD, a national and international scholar with extensive experience in higher education, research and administration, has been named the new Director of the School of Social Work.

Dr. Van Zyl has served as the Associate Dean for Research, Kent School of Social Work, University of Louisville since 2000. During his tenure as Associate Dean he expanded the research portfolio of the Kent School from less than \$1 million to \$6 million per year for a total of \$70 million since 2000. Prior to coming to the United States, Dr. Van Zyl was the Head of the Department of Social Work at Rand Afrikaans University in Johannesburg, South Africa for nine years and was Senior Lecturer for five years. Dr. Van Zyl served as Chair of the Joint University Council on Social Work in South Africa and was responsible for developing new accreditation standards.

Dr. Van Zyl focuses on innovative methods to promote effective interventions and service delivery to a wide range of underserved populations. Through his research he has had an impact in HIV/AIDS prevention and correctional settings. Dr. Van Zyl's research also focuses on assessing and teaching through facilitation of critical thinking.

“Dr. Van Zyl has a proven track record in research, administration, and teaching, and I am pleased that he will serve as the next leader for the School of Social Work,” said Julie Serovich, Professor and Dean of the College of Behavioral and Community Sciences. “Dr. Van Zyl's international experience and research and community-engaged research strongly aligns with the mission of the College and University. I look forward to Dr. Van Zyl joining us in promoting the success of students, mentoring faculty in research, and engaging with the community to solve problems.”

“As a leader, my intent is to provide direction and to inspire, and to do so while being sensitive to the strengths and the leadership that others bring. I look forward to the opportunity of getting to know the students and faculty at USF and the community leaders and partners” said Van Zyl.

Dr. Van Zyl succeeds Interim Director Dr. Alison Salloum, who led the School of Social Work during the past two years. Dean Serovich noted “Dr. Salloum did an outstanding job leading the School of Work. The faculty and I are grateful to her for stepping up and serving the School with such integrity and vision.”

Dr. Van Zyl will start as the Director of the USF School of Social Work August 1, 2017.

