



A MESSAGE  
*from the Provost*

June 8, 2021

Dear Colleagues,

I am pleased to announce the appointment of Dr. R. Anthony Rolle, as Dean of the College of Education. Professor Rolle’s appointment follows a national search for a replacement for Dr. Robert Knoepfel and Interim Dean Judith Ponticell, who retires in the fall.

Dr. Rolle was recruited from his position as Dean of the Alan Shawn Feinstein College of Education and Professional Studies at The University of Rhode Island for the past four years. He has a proven track record in supporting student access and success, faculty research, and community collaboration. Professor Rolle has been recognized for his research related to K-12 finance and policy and is well-positioned to help develop and guide the College of Education’s strategic way forward, prepare and certify teachers, and deliver graduate degree programs to prepare principals and other K-12 leaders, all while meeting the changing demands of the K-12 education landscape and strengthen the college’s focus on educational research.

During more than two decades of research and professional service to the field of education, Rolle has developed models to measure effectiveness and efficiency in public school systems, managed national and internationally recognized research projects for government and non-profit organizations, increased endowed student scholarships, enhanced community partnerships, and supported faculty excellence in research and teaching on an international scale.

Prior to serving as a tenured Professor and Dean of the Alan Shawn Feinstein College of Education and Professional Studies at The University of Rhode Island, Rolle served in academic leadership roles at the University of Houston and the University of South Florida. Rolle earned his bachelor’s degree in political science from Santa Clara University, his Master of Public Administration from the University of Washington, and his doctorate from Indiana University.

As Dean of the College of Education he will work to help shape an exciting and distinctive vision for the future of the College, as well as provide active and visible leadership in facilitating partnerships across all USF campuses and throughout the diverse communities we serve.

I want to extend my most sincere appreciation to our dedicated Search Advisory Committee members, and Chair Dean Kevin Sneed, for their time and extraordinary commitment to finding the very best candidate to advance research and academic delivery across the USF College of Education.

Dr. Rolle begins at USF on August 2, 2021. Professor Judith Ponticell, Interim Dean in the College of Education will serve as the College’s Interim Dean throughout the month of July.

Once again, please join me in welcoming Dr. Rolle to the USF community.

Sincerely,

**Ralph C. Wilcox**  
Provost & Executive Vice President  
University of South Florida