

RCCC names new president

GAIL SMITH-ARRANTS

Rowan-Cabarrus Community College has a new president.

The college's board of trustees today voted to hire Carol Spalding, open campus president of Florida Community College in Jacksonville, to succeed Richard Brownell.

Brownell retired May 31 after serving the school for more than 30 years.

Spalding's appointment will be official when the N.C. State Board of Community Colleges approves the choice at its June meeting. But that appears to be a formality: The state board already had checked the backgrounds of all five finalists and given RCCC its blessing to employ any of them.

In April, the RCCC search committee narrowed the field of 27 candidates down to five. The finalists visited campuses for tours, interviewed with the board and met faculty, staff members and members of the community.

The four other finalists were C. Leary Bell, associate chancellor at the University of South Carolina at Beaufort; Catherine Chew, vice president for academic affairs at Orange County Community College in Middletown, N.Y.; Henry "Hank" Dunn, chancellor of the Central Indiana Region of Ivy Tech Community College in Indianapolis; and Kerry Youngblood, vice president of community college affairs at Mesa State College in Grand Junction, Colo.

Spalding's annual compensation at RCCC will be \$153,428 plus benefits, board chairman Ray Paradowski said.

She is expected to start work Aug. 11. Until she arrives, longtime senior administrator Jerry Chandler is serving as interim president.

Gail Smith-Arrants: 704-786-2185
gsmith-arrants@charlotteobserver.com