



News from University of Missouri Extension

MU Provost Selects New Vice Provost for Extension Ouart Brings More Than 30 Years of Experience to MU

By Jordan Clothier

COLUMBIA, Mo. - Brian Foster, provost at the University of Missouri-Columbia, announced today that Michael D. Ouart (pronounced "Ort") has been selected vice provost for MU Extension and director of cooperative extension effective Dec. 1, 2006. Ouart replaces Linda Jo Turner who has served as interim provost for MU Extension since Dec. 1, 2005.

"I believe that Michael's professional experience at virtually all levels of extension will make him an effective leader as he handles the important responsibilities of this position," Foster said. "His career includes both faculty and administrative experience in extension, research and academic programs at land-grant universities."

Ouart has more than 30 years of experience in extension functions and services. Most recently, he served as associate vice provost and associate director of extension at Iowa State University, a position he held from 2003 to 2006. Much of his career has focused on agricultural, animal sciences and natural resources research and extension services in positions at Mississippi State University and the University of Florida.

"I'm honored to be selected to lead MU Extension," Ouart said. "The structure of extension at MU provides a great opportunity to reach current and future learners. Because of its size, scope and structure, MU Extension is in a fantastic position to serve as a catalyst for the growth of the state."

While at Iowa State University, Ouart worked to enhance the relationship between the University and community schools and facilitated the development of numerous multistate partnerships and programs. He also oversaw the creation of the Community Vitality Center, which provides local leaders with the latest information about community foundation development. As a result, more than 80 Iowa counties have growing endowments worth more than \$12 million.

Ouart's experiences reach beyond the university level as he has served on national, regional and state committees and task forces. From 2004 to 2006, Ouart served as vice chair of the Budget and Legislation Committee for the National Extension Committee on Organization and Policy.

"I look forward to working with Michael, and I have every confidence in his ability to provide leadership and vision," Foster said.

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