

## Saunders Named Finalist for UWF Provost Post

HATTIESBURG – At its 22-Oct-2012 committee meeting, the search committee in charge [of finding](#) the University of West Florida’s next provost selected three finalists [from among](#) the [seven semi-finalists](#) that were interviewed during the week of 15-Oct-2012. Among [the three finalists](#) is Martha Saunders, the former USM president (2007-12) who now serves as a professor of communications at USM’s Long Beach branch. Joining Saunders in this group of three is Brenda Nichols, the dean of Arts & Sciences at Lamar University, and Ralph Rascati, the associate VPAA at Kennesaw State University.



*Martha Saunders*



*Brenda Nichols*



*Ralph Rascati*

Although both Nichols and Rascati have, on paper, what appear to be solid credentials for assuming the provost position at UWF, sources tell USMNEWS.net that the two have almost no chance of winning out in the race against Saunders. According to sources, the events of the past several months involving Saunders, combined with her owning a beach home in Pensacola, [having taught at nearby](#) Gulf Breeze High School, and having been a dean at UWF at the beginning of her academic career, all come together as a confluence that seems so perfect as to have been orchestrated in some way.