

## Saunders Expected to be Named Finalist for UWF Provost

HATTIESBURG – *The Hattiesburg American's* higher education reporter Ed Kemp [reported on](#) 19-October-2012 that former USM president Martha Saunders (2007-2012) is now a candidate to fill the provost opening at the University of West Florida. As Kemp reports, and as long-time readers of USMNEWS.net are likely aware, Saunders' academic career began at the Pensacola-based institution, where she eventually rose to the college dean level before moving on to Columbus State University, where she served as provost. When reached by Kemp, Saunders (pictured below) admitted to being a candidate for the UWF post, saying, "[i]t's still early in the search."



Sources tell USMNEWS.net, however, that upon visiting the UWF website for [information on the search](#), Saunders' comment to Kemp could not be further from the truth. According to the UWF 2012 Provost Search Timeline, initial meetings regarding the search were held on 19-July-2012. The search began with an official posting of the opening on the UWF website on 30-July-2012, and the applicant pool was closed and approved on 1-Oct-2012. According to [the meeting minutes](#) from the 8-October-2012 search committee meeting, discussion was held about the top 24 candidates from the final applicant pool of 83 individuals. During this particular meeting, 13 preferred candidates were selected for in-depth reference checks. On 12-October-2012, the top 6-8 candidates were identified, and phone interviews with these candidates were conducted during the week beginning 15-October-2012. Saunders' phone interview with UWF was the subject of Kemp's recent article in *THA*, meaning that Saunders is among the top 6-8 candidates for the UWF provost job. On 22-October-2012, just three days from this news report, the 3 finalists are to be selected, and on-campus interviews, which will occur on 24/25-October-2012, 1/2-November-2012, and 5/6-November-2012, are to be scheduled. On 9-November-2012, the search committee's top candidate will be forwarded to the UWF president. The new UWF provost is expected to be on the job in January-2013. So, UWF is within three days of naming

the 3 finalists for its provost position, and Saunders is stating that UWF is “early in the search [process].”

Regular readers will recall that within hours of Saunders’ April-2012 resignation as USM president, USMNEWS.net was predicting that Saunders would soon hold a high-level administrative post at UWF. With almost no chance of Saunders being passed over for the provost slot at UWF, our sources, editorialists and readers are once again right on the mark with their predictions.