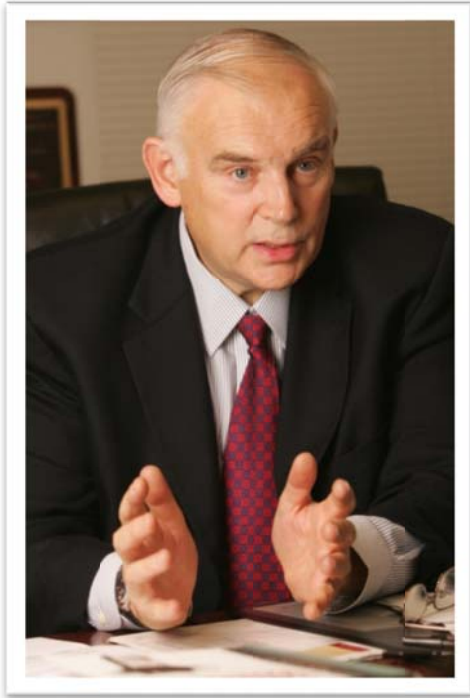


March 9, 2011



Everette E. Dennis, Ph.D.

**COMMUNICATOR AND EDUCATIONAL LEADER DR. EVERETTE DENNIS
NAMED CHAIR OF FRED ROGERS CENTER ADVISORY COUNCIL**

LATROBE, PA – Dr. Everette E. Dennis has been named chairperson of the national Advisory Council for the Fred Rogers Center for Early Learning and Children’s Media at Saint Vincent College.

Dr. Dennis is currently the Felix E. Larkin Distinguished Professor and chairperson of communication and media management at Fordham University. He will become the dean of Northwestern University in Qatar on June 1 of this year.

He also served most recently as the director of the Center for Communications at Fordham and executive director of the International Longevity Center-USA in New York City.

“I want to work with the Fred Rogers Center to enhance its profile and increase its visibility,” Dr. Dennis said. Dr. Dennis met the late Fred Rogers several times during his career and has been an advocate of his philosophy of education. “The Advisory Council is one of the most vital and energized groups I have had the privilege of being associated with,” he said. “They are firmly committed to the mission of the Center.”

Fred Rogers Center executive director Rita Catalano noted, “Everette Dennis brings a most distinguished background of scholarship, organization building, and service to his role as new chair of our Advisory Council. He has been highly engaged as an Advisor for many years and, now, we look forward to benefiting even further from his leadership and visionary thinking.”

Dr. Dennis earned a Ph.D. in mass communication, constitutional law, and history from the University of Minnesota, and he has held advanced fellowships at the Harvard University Law School and the Institute of Politics. Dr. Dennis was formerly founding executive director of the Media Studies Center at Columbia University, the nation’s first institute of advanced study for media and technological change and founding president of the American Academy in Berlin. He served as dean of the school of journalism and communications at the University of Oregon and was a full professor at the University of Minnesota. He is past president of the National Association for Education in Journalism & Mass Communication, the author of some 45 books in the field and other publications. He is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations.

The 20 current members of the Fred Rogers Center Advisory Council are distinguished national leaders in the fields of early learning and children’s media. The Advisors provide guidance and expert advice in planning and program development for the Rogers Center. Most of the Advisors knew the late Fred Rogers professionally and personally.

Dr. Dennis succeeds Dr. Milton Chen, Senior Fellow of The George Lucas Educational Foundation, who served as Advisory Council chair from 2004 to 2010. Dr. Robert C. Wilburn, former president and chief executive officer, Gettysburg Foundation, was the founding chair of the Center’s Advisory Council.

The Fred Rogers Center for Early Learning and Children’s Media at Saint Vincent College (www.fredrogerscenter.org) was established in 2003. The Center houses the official archive of Fred Rogers’ work including scripts, videos, and artifacts from *Mister Rogers’ Neighborhood*. The Center’s national programs include the Early Career Fellows; the Fred Rogers Center Early Learning Environment™ under development as a web-based resource for teachers, home-based caregivers, and families; and the Fred Forward Conference Series and issues roundtables.

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