



The College of Behavioral & Community Sciences is pleased to announce the appointment of Professor and Director of the School of Social Work, Dr. Bonnie L. Yegidis. Yegidis holds a doctoral degree from the College of Education at the University of South Florida and the MSW degree from West Virginia University. She is also a certified family mediator in the state of Florida. Prior to joining USF, Dr. Yegidis held the position of Vice President for Academic Affairs and Student Success at the University of Tennessee (2008-2010), and Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs at Florida Gulf Coast University (2004-2007). She also previously served as Dean of the School of Social Work at the University of Georgia (1994-2003). Dr. Yegidis has extensive experience in leading higher education initiatives including developing diversity programs, research and scholarship initiatives, and student success programs. She also is skilled in external relations programs including fundraising and alumni development.



Over the course of her career in higher education, Dr. Yegidis has been effective in developing partnerships with international institutions as well as educational partnerships across higher education sectors. She has developed a strong record of research and scholarship serving as the senior author for one of the most widely used textbooks on research methods for social work education. She also has a new scholarly monograph on "Evidenced Based Social Work Practice with Women" in press for publication with Sage for fall of 2010. Yegidis is the author of numerous scholarly papers, book chapters, international and national presentations. She is also the recipient of a number of national awards including an outstanding alumna award from West Virginia University.

Yegidis describes the social work faculty at USF as being engaged in cutting edge research on high priorities to social work practice and clinical research including trauma related mental health disorders, end of life care decision-making and disaster preparedness research. "I am delighted to have the opportunity to lead USF's school of social work and, with support of the faculty, enhance the quality of our teaching, research and service programs," says Yegidis. Faculty are also leading research partnerships on foster kinship care and housing and community development. She intends to support the further development of the research agenda of the faculty and also expand the school's linkages with community social service organizations and state and national funding agencies. Collectively these efforts will enhance the quality of the educational programs of the school and distinguish USF's School of Social Work from others in the state of Florida and in the nation.