FAU picks Cleveland State administrator as new president

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Mary Jane Saunders, a Cleveland State University administrator, was selected on Wednesday as Florida Atlantic University's sixth president.

Saunders succeeds Frank Brogan, who was named chancellor of Florida's State University System.

``We are extremely fortunate to have Mary Jane Saunders leading FAU through what will undoubtedly be an extraordinary time in the university's history," said BOT chair Nancy Blosser.

Saunders was picked by the 13-member board of trustees of the Boca Raton school and beat out two other finalists for the job.

``Her track record of being an effective and productive leader will help to ensure the university's growth and success," Blosser said.

Saunders has been the provost and senior vice president for academic affairs at Cleveland State. She was named interim provost in 2006 and provost in 2007.

``It is such an honor to have the opportunity to lead the university to its next level of excellence, accomplishing great things together with the university community," Saunders said in a prepared statement.

Saunders joined CSU in 2003 as director of the Biomedical Health Institute and a professor in the department of biological, geological and environmental sciences.

She was founding dean of the College of Science, CSU's second largest college.

Prior to working at CSU, Saunders was a program officer and deputy division director at the National Science Foundation, director of the Institute of Biomolecular Science at the University of South Florida and an assistant professor in the botany department at Louisiana State University.
She received her Ph.D. in botany from the University of Massachusetts.