

Rich Taylor

Rich Taylor was named Dean of the Weitzenhoffer Family College of Fine Arts at the University of Oklahoma in March 2009.

Dean Taylor joined the OU faculty in 2007 as Chair and tenured professor of the Weitzenhoffer School of Musical Theatre. Prior to returning to OU, he had an illustrious career as Vice President of Walt Disney Entertainment and Costuming. For over 10 years Taylor led the creative, production and operations teams for the world's largest live entertainment company.

He spent the first decade of his entertainment career performing with, producing, directing and teaching for famed choral music pioneer and showman, Fred Waring and his Pennsylvanians. He joined the Disney entertainment organization in 1980 and for the next 27 years advanced thru a myriad of Disney, administrative, creative and executive leadership positions.

He was named Vice President of Disney Entertainment and Costuming in 1996 and for the next decade led the team and cast of over 4000 performers and entertainment professionals. Rich was the executive responsible for the creation of countless Disney parades, shows, spectacles and special events. He also co-created and produced the Emmy Award-winning Walt Disney World Christmas Parade on ABC and the Super Bowl XXXIV halftime show.

Taylor is a two time judge of the Miss America Pageant. In 2010, he served as Chairman of the Creativity World Forum in Oklahoma City. He is currently on the Board of the Oklahoma Arts Institute, the Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center and serves as Chairman of the Board of "Creative Oklahoma," and President of the University Club at the University of Oklahoma. He was named an official "Oklahoma Creativity Ambassador" by Governor Mary Fallin in 2012.