

# URSINUS COLLEGE HUMAN RESOURCES

# OUR PEOPLE

SPECIAL ISSUE

FEBRUARY 2022



## DEAR COLLEAGUES,

When I became interim president on September 1, 2021, I promised to continue the positive trajectory of Ursinus College and position every member of our Bear community for success by building on the great work we've done during this historic point in time. One of the words often used to describe someone in my position is "transitional," but that would imply that we are merely shifting gears from one phase to the next.

Well, the period of transition is no time to remain idle.

Over the course of this academic year—with a new strategic plan on the horizon that will set the tone for Ursinus for years to come—I am proud of all that we have accomplished. That work must continue. With our presidential search coming to a close and the announcement of the next leader of our great institution imminent, it is imperative that we create a framework for that individual—and for each of us—to hit the ground running and continue our ascent.

In that spirit, we have taken a thoughtful approach to re-align certain positions on our senior leadership team with the goals of the next strategic plan, Every Student's Success, as well as some of the priorities identified by the Ursinus Board of Trustees, such as diversity, equity, and inclusion; the health and wellbeing of our entire campus community; and a bold academic curriculum grounded in the liberal arts and Quest.

In this special edition of our human resources newsletter, *Our People*, I invite you to read about exciting new initiatives being led by our colleagues and peers Missy Bryant, Meredith Goldsmith, Heather Lobban-Viravong, and Laura Moliken, and view a series of short (re-introductory) videos in which they explain more about their new charges.

Once again, we at Ursinus are building upon what makes us truly great. Thank you, Bears, for all that you do and for your inspirational hard work and dedication to Ursinus.

**JILL LEUBER MARSTELLER '78, P'18**  
**PRESIDENT**

# A NEW, INNOVATIVE APPROACH...

## PAVING THE WAY FOR EVERY STUDENT'S SUCCESS

Every innovative vision must first have a strategy—a roadmap for success. And in laying the groundwork for Ursinus's next strategic plan, Every Student's Success, we are setting in motion a bold new plan that empowers our students and nurtures their potential. After all, our purposeful approach to the liberal arts has long been a point of distinction.



Guiding our efforts in this area will be **Meredith Goldsmith**, a professor of English who is no stranger to teaching and scholarship. As the college's new **chief strategy and innovation officer**, Meredith will not only lead our strategic plan, but also support program development to elevate the Quest core curriculum to new heights. That means *more* opportunities to strengthen our faculty and staff's support for our students, new pathways for students toward graduate and professional education, and *stronger* collaborations to foster relationships with community colleges to strengthen transfer student cohorts.

Now more than ever, it is important that we provide exceptional support of our students throughout their time here at Ursinus. This means offering the kinds of resources that promote their well-being in as thoughtful and integrated a manner as possible. To accelerate this vision, the college realigned several administrative offices to create closer connections with students, but also to encourage even greater collaboration among our student-facing teams. This new framework emphasizes our commitment to creating a culture that is more welcoming, healthy, and responsive to our students' needs.

## THE DIVISION OF STUDENT AFFAIRS

**Missy Bryant**, our vice president for student affairs and dean of students, is leading a division that plays a crucial role in Ursinus Quest. Missy and her colleagues have created a model for learning outside the classroom that ties directly to the curriculum and provides an exceptionally



personalized and supportive environment here on campus. They've strengthened their relationships with academic affairs, ensuring no barriers exist between our students' academic and personal growth. And they're focused on providing resources that create a more welcoming and inclusive campus culture for every student—a culture built upon their safety and wellbeing. In addition to increasing staffing in Campus Safety, Missy has expanded the roles of three colleagues to help the division carry forward this new vision:

- **Nick Hanford**, Executive Director of Student Success and Scholarship Experiences
- **Katie O'Brien**, Director of the Institute for Student Success
- **Gabrielle Wright**, Executive Director of Campus Safety and Emergency Preparedness

### THIS DIVISION NOW INCLUDES:

Campus Safety and Emergency Preparedness  
The Institute for Student Success  
Residence Life  
Scholarship Experiences  
Student Conduct  
Student Engagement  
Title IX

# ...TO NURTURE STUDENT POTENTIAL

(CONTINUED)

## THE DIVISION OF INCLUSION AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Fostering a truly inclusive environment leads to a greater sense of belonging, creating new avenues to build relationships. As our Vice President for Inclusion and Community Engagement, **Heather Lobban-Viravong** leads an expanded team whose vision is to strengthen engagement among all members of our campus, as well



as our regional neighbors. They'll support all of our civic engagement and service opportunities, building even more meaningful partnerships with organizations throughout Montgomery County, and beyond. And they'll continue the good work of building our "Beloved Community" through sustainable initiatives supporting our diversity, inclusion, and equity efforts. Joining Heather in carrying forward this new vision are:

- **Ashley Henderson**, Director of the Institute for Inclusion and Equity
- **Monique Kelly**, College and Community Engagement Specialist
- **Rev. Terri Ofori**, Chaplain and Director of Religious and Spiritual Life
- **Christian Rice**, Associate Dean for Civic Learning
- **Dee Singley**, Director of Disability Services

### THIS DIVISION NOW INCLUDES:

Chaplain's Office/Religious and Spiritual Life  
Community Relations  
Disability Services  
The Institute for Inclusion and Equity (IIE)  
UCARE

## THE DIVISION OF HEALTH AND WELLNESS

As our new Vice President for Health and Wellness, **Laura Moliken** will now focus on the mental and physical wellbeing of our community. Her leadership portfolio reflects a more integrated focus to the health



of our campus. She's leading a division that unites the Wellness Center and our Prevention and Advocacy office with athletics and recreational activity—a more holistic approach to promoting healthy lifestyles and a more nurturing campus culture to support our students. Her team works closely with student affairs, in particular, to create a residential experience viewed through the broad lens of student wellbeing. To support this newly integrated division, Laura has expanded the roles of the following individuals:

- **Erin Stroble**, Director of Athletics, will take over the reins on all day-to-day operations and responsibilities of the athletics department.
- **Lauren Finnegan Martin**, Executive Director for Counseling and Wellness, will focus her efforts on counseling services and physician care.
- **Katie Bean**, Director for Prevention and Advocacy, will continue with her current role, but will assume more greater responsibilities in planning programming and initiatives associated with the six dimensions of well-being: social, emotional, physical, intellectual, spiritual, and financial.

### THIS DIVISION NOW INCLUDES:

Athletics and the Fitness Center  
Prevention and Advocacy  
Recreation and Intramurals  
Sports Medicine  
The Wellness Center

THE ANNUAL  
COMMUNITY  
CONFERENCE:  
A FOCUS ON  
YOUR  
WELLBEING

The Community Conference, “Well-being: Yours, Mine & Ours!” will be held on **Wednesday, March 2**, in the Floy Lewis Bakes Field House. Please register at <https://ursinus.edu/2022CommunityConference>.

This year, the conference will include an important conversation about the six dimensions of wellness. Our aim is to improve our own personal and professional wellbeing as we work to promote healthier lifestyles and work/life balance.

The conference will begin at 8:30 a.m. with a continental breakfast. The program will follow from 9 a.m. to 11:50 a.m., with a special luncheon—including the presentations of the Laughlin and Tortorelli staff awards—to follow.



**GO BEARS**