

— THE —

# POWER30

— ROCHESTER BUSINESS JOURNAL —

HIGHER EDUCATION





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## Presenting the Power 30 Higher Education

The Rochester Business Journal’s inaugural Power List program continues this week with our Power 30 Higher Education.

The list includes individuals who have spent the past 20 months figuring out new ways to educate students amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

The people on this list have helped Rochester’s higher education institutions reimagine themselves rapidly to keep students, faculty and staff safe. They have pushed innovation forward to deal with the challenges of COVID-19. They have kept up with ever-changing protocols, requirements and recommendations and have led the way through a period of tremendous uncertainty.

As with our previous Power Lists, this one is presented in alphabetical order. And again, rather than tell you about all of these power players’ accomplishments and accolades, we decided to give them a chance to tell you more about themselves through their answers to a few different questions.

I welcome any feedback you have at [bjacobs@bridgetowermedia.com](mailto:bjacobs@bridgetowermedia.com).

— Ben Jacobs,  
Associate Publisher and Editor



## CONGRATULATIONS!



President Elizabeth Paul



Provost Andrea Talentino

Congratulations to President Elizabeth Paul and Provost Andrea Talentino for being named among the Rochester Business Journal’s Top 30 Power Leaders in Higher Education.

For your strength, vision, commitment, and leadership, we are grateful.

## NAZARETH COLLEGE

4245 East Avenue • Rochester, NY  
[naz.edu](http://naz.edu)

## DENISE A. BATTLES

PRESIDENT,  
SUNY GENESEO



**Years in current role:** 6+

**What do you enjoy most about your role?**

I am a big believer in the transformative power of higher education: the doors of opportunity are more likely to open to a well-educated individual. My educational journey was shaped by a desire to maximize my options in life, and I delight in having a role that enables me to facilitate similar opportunities for Geneseo students. Perhaps because they bookend our students' collegiate journey, my two favorite campus events are Move-in Day for our new students and Commencement Day as our newest alumni celebrate their achievements and head off into the world.

**What has been the biggest challenge you've dealt with over the past year?**

Without a doubt, the COVID-19 pandemic

has presented the most significant challenge; I imagine few higher education leaders would respond otherwise. Navigating that public health crisis highlighted for me what a committed, innovative, and resilient campus community we have at Geneseo, from our students to my colleagues. Their dedication and willingness to sacrifice for the greater good are simply remarkable.

**What college class that you haven't taken would you be most interested in taking and why?**

I would love to take a course on Egyptology. I developed a deep interest in ancient Egypt as a youth, and that fascination has never left me. I'm endlessly intrigued by the region's ancient civilizations and its pharaohs, artwork, hieroglyphics, rituals, structures, and other artifacts. The prospect of solving Egypt's mysteries is tremendously appealing. How were the great pyramids constructed? What led to the death of the teenaged Tutankhamun? This passion for resolving longstanding questions led, naturally enough, to my becoming a geologist who seeks to unravel the Earth's history. But in an alternate universe, I'm a swashbuckling Egyptologist!

## DAAN BRAVEMAN

PRESIDENT EMERITUS, NAZARETH COLLEGE; SENIOR HIGHER  
EDUCATION COUNSEL, HARTER SECREST AND EMERY



**Years in current role:** 1 year at Harter Secrest; President of Nazareth for 15 years (2005-20)

**What do you enjoy most about your role?**

My greatest joy as president came from working with students and witnessing their growth during their college years.

**What do you see as the biggest changes in the higher education industry in the next 3-5 years?**

In the next five years, the higher education industry in the Northeast will experience a "demographic cliff," as the number of traditionally aged college students will decline dramatically. Schools will need to respond to the enrollment decline and resulting loss of revenue. This challenge may create opportunities for schools to abandon their

silos and see the value of working together on shared administrative services and academic programs in an effort to avoid the expensive duplication that currently exists in higher education. Such cooperation also could lead to enhanced experiences for our students.

**What community organizations do you support as a volunteer and why?**

I am co-chair of the Rochester Monroe Anti-Poverty Initiative (RMAPI) and serve on the Boards of the Farash Foundation, WXXI, Golisano Children's Hospital, and the Discovery Charter School.

## GERARD BUCKLEY

PRESIDENT, NATIONAL TECHNICAL INSTITUTE FOR THE DEAF; VICE  
PRESIDENT AND DEAN, ROCHESTER INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY



**Years in current role:** 11

Buckley became the first alumnus to lead the National Technical Institute for the Deaf when he became the school's president in 2011.

He has spent a majority of his career serving NTID in a variety of roles. He was chairperson and assistant professor of the Department of Educational Outreach at NTID from 1990-93, followed by five years as director of NTID's Center for Outreach and assistant professor on the RIT/NTID Social Work Support Team.

He then served as NTID associate dean for student services from 1998-2003 and was assistant vice president for college advancement with responsibility for the admissions, placement, marketing, and

outreach operations of the college from 2004 until he became the school's president.

Buckley has twice been awarded the NTID Faculty/Staff Humanitarian Award by the NTID Student Congress, and was named Distinguished Alumnus for NTID in 1985 and for RIT's College of Liberal Arts in 1996.

He has served as President of the Board of the American Deafness and Rehabilitation Association and as President of the Lexington School for the Deaf Board of Trustees in New York City. He also has served on the National Advisory Board of NIH's Institute on Deafness.

## DEANNA R. BURT-NANNA

PRESIDENT,  
MONROE COMMUNITY COLLEGE



**Years in current role:** 4 months

**What do you enjoy most about your role?**

I enjoy interacting with Monroe Community College students, faculty, staff and alumni on and off campus. I embrace opportunities to build early connections with them and one another while fostering belongingness in our campus community. My role as president of MCC also affords me increased opportunities to make local, regional, state and national connections where I can share the mission of and vision for MCC. I enjoy helping others connect their goals and objectives to the mission of MCC as the community's college, particularly how increasing access to educational attainment as a pathway to family-sustaining wages and social mobility is

strategically sound for the economic prosperity of our community as a whole while also being socially and morally right.

**What has been the biggest challenge you've dealt with over the past year?**

The emotional, financial and social tolls of the pandemic left no one untouched within our campus and broader community. The pandemic further exposed the digital divide and basic need insecurities among our students; some were even more adversely affected by the pandemic. This is why as one of the top strategic priorities set for the college under my leadership, MCC is elevating its focus on closing economic and equity gaps.

**What do you see as the biggest changes in higher education in 3-5 years?**

The impact of the pandemic will reframe how educational leaders at all levels think strategically and leverage what can be learned from the crisis. This includes how to deliver quality higher education and training to the masses innovatively and in the way students want to access learning. Perhaps, this might also be a time to re-examine the definition of what it means to be a student in the 21st century and what constitutes academic progress toward earning a credential.



## GLORIA M. CULVER

DEAN OF THE SCHOOL OF ARTS AND SCIENCES,  
UNIVERSITY OF ROCHESTER



**Years in current role:** 6

**What do you enjoy most about your role?**

I am never bored. I have programs ranging from performing arts to physics in my portfolio. Interdisciplinary work is a hallmark of what we do and my role is central to much of the programming in this space.

**What has been the biggest challenge you've dealt with over the past year?**

Making a residential experience for students and faculty work with remote learning, social distancing and all that comes with that has been a huge challenge. Also, trying to lead from a position of empathetic and needs-based thinking has been a challenge.

**What do you see as the biggest changes in the higher education industry in the next 3-5 years?**

Understanding the role of universities in society and how to make an in-depth college experience an option for more individuals are problems we must face. How do we use what we are learning during this pandemic to make education better is another topic for the next few years.

**What community organizations do you support as a volunteer and why?**

I am a supporter and Board member of Geva and I serve on the Board of managers and support the Memorial Art Gallery.

**What college class that you haven't taken would you be most interested in taking and why?**

Oh so many ... courses in social justice, philosophy, ethics and technology are at the top of my list.

## LINDA MAE DELENE

INTERIM PROVOST AND VICE PRESIDENT,  
SUNY BROCKPORT



**Years in current role:** Less than one

**What do you enjoy most about your role?**

Thinking about the future needs of our students.

**What has been the biggest challenge you've dealt with over the past year?**

COVID isolation and behavioral adjustments.

**What do you see as the biggest changes in the higher education industry in the next 3-5 years?**

A greater use of techniques; COVID 19 pandemic; more competition for fewer students.

**What community organizations do you support as a volunteer and why?**

Habitat for Humanity — This organization creates opportunity for people to rebuild their lives with a secure place to live.

Trauma Counseling — Incredibly important to so many who have suffered great loss. Social Workers and public health personnel do an incredible amount of work with too little resources and qualified professionals.

**What college class that you haven't taken would you be most interested in taking and why?**

Graphic design and social media literacy. I would enjoy taking these classes because of my lack of knowledge and because we are surrounded by both dynamics in our current world.

## ELLEN GRANBERG

PROVOST AND SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT FOR ACADEMIC  
AFFAIRS, ROCHESTER INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY



**Years in current role:** 3

Granberg became the first woman to serve as provost and senior vice president for Academic Affairs at Rochester Institute of Technology when she began the position in August 2018. As provost, she oversees nine colleges, two degree-granting units, and international campuses in Croatia, Dubai, Kosovo, and China.

Granberg is focused on increasing undergraduate student success, expanding doctoral education, improving facilities for instruction and research, and leveraging RIT's strengths in innovation, creativity, and cross-disciplinary collaboration to advance the academic mission of the university.

Prior to joining RIT, Granberg served as the senior associate provost and associate provost for Faculty Affairs at Clemson University.

Before starting her career in academia, Granberg worked in telecommunications as project manager and technical director for Pacific Bell. She led large integrated software development teams that replaced aging billing and customer service systems.

## ANNE HAAKE

DEAN, GOLISANO COLLEGE OF COMPUTING AND INFORMATION  
SCIENCES, ROCHESTER INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY



**Years in current role:** 6

Haake became the first female dean of RIT's computing college on April 1, 2016, after serving as interim dean for nine months. The computing college houses three of RIT's largest programs: computer science, game design and development, and software engineering.

Before becoming dean of Golisano College of Computing and Information Sciences, Haake spent 15 years at RIT serving in interdisciplinary curriculum development roles for several programs, including bioinformatics, medical informatics, the Ph.D. in computing and information sciences and the human-computer interaction master's program.

Haake helped to plan and build the leadership team for the Global Cybersecurity Institute at RIT, a 52,000-square-foot, state-of-the-art facility that opened last fall.

Haake announced earlier this year that she is stepping down as dean at the end of the 2021-22 academic year. A leader in interdisciplinary research, Haake plans to take a year sabbatical to refresh her research before joining the RIT faculty.

In 2012, Haake was named RIT's first National Science Foundation Expert in the foundation's Division of Biological Infrastructure and served as a program director for the division.

## JOYCE P. JACOBSEN

PRESIDENT,  
HOBART AND WILLIAM SMITH COLLEGES



**Years in current role:** 2

**What do you enjoy most about your role?**

The role of president allows me to meet and interact with a great many people — faculty, students, staff, alums, parents and community members. I am always interested in their often-different perspectives on issues and about the ways in which we can all work together to make Hobart and William Smith Colleges, Geneva and the Finger Lakes region an even more vibrant place to learn, teach and live.

**What has been the biggest challenge you've dealt with over the past year?**

The pandemic. Our goal was to keep Hobart and William Smith open and in-person, and we were able to do that. This presented a series of logistical issues that were at times challenging. I remain grateful to everyone in our community

who did everything possible to ensure that we were able to continue to provide our students with an exceptional education in as safe an environment as possible.

**What do you see as the biggest changes in the higher education industry in the next 3-5 years?**

The demographic shift in the northeast in particular will be a challenge as we continue to maintain our value proposition as we also improve upon it.

**What community organizations do you support as a volunteer and why?**

It is the goal of my husband Bill Boyd and me to become involved in as many things as possible in Geneva. This is an extraordinary community in a vibrant and dynamic city, and we consider ourselves lucky to live here.

**What college class that you haven't taken would you be most interested in taking and why?**

Psychology 101 so that I can better understand all of the interesting people I interact with daily. I've also often thought it would be wonderful to take a summary course in art history.

## HEIDI MACPHERSON

PRESIDENT,  
SUNY BROCKPORT



**Years in current role:** 6

**What do you enjoy most about your role?**

My favorite part of my job is being able to help someone take a nascent idea and make it a reality. As a professor, I had the opportunity to impact a few classrooms of students at a time, perhaps 100-150 students a semester. As a president, I have the opportunity to help to transform the lives of many more young and not so young people through supporting and championing the ideas of others. Working in partnership means we can ensure a focus on student success, faculty support, and professional development for all.

**What has been the biggest challenge you've dealt with over the past year?**

Without a doubt, it's been how to open the campus safely and keep it open despite a worldwide pandemic. I'm fortunate to have an exceptionally strong team working behind the scenes on the logistics of testing, quarantining, and event management. The challenge is trying to keep everything going while recognizing that everything is also different, and individuals and teams are under stress in ways that they hadn't been before. To me it comes back to giving grace and being kind — and knowing that we have to put human beings at the center of our focus. Teamwork matters, and makes a difference.

**What do you see as the biggest changes in higher education in 3-5 years?**

I think we will continue to see differentiation within and between institutions, in relation to how they are serving students and what kinds of students they are marketing themselves toward and attracting. We will need to find more ways to support students who are not looking for a residential experience, for example. How can we do a better job of engaging students who commute, who are part time, who combine studying with having a family or a job? I see an increase in degree completion programs tailored to students who have some higher education but not a degree, as well as graduate programs to support career aspirations.

## SARAH C. MANGELSDORF

PRESIDENT,  
UNIVERSITY OF ROCHESTER



**Years in current role:** 2

Mangelsdorf is the 11th president of the University of Rochester and the school's first female president. She served as provost at the University of Wisconsin before taking the helm in Rochester in July 2019.

Mangelsdorf, who has also served as dean of the Weinberg College of Arts and Sciences at Northwestern University and dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, is a professor of psychology whose research has focused on social and emotional development.

"As president I will be particularly attentive to these issues of equity and inclusion and I will do everything I can do to make sure that every

student, faculty, and staff member at the University of Rochester feels welcomed and included," Mangelsdorf said during her inauguration in October 2019.

Less than six months later, Mangelsdorf had to work with her leadership team to first address the issues of COVID-19 and then develop the university's response to the social and racial unrest that developed in the wake of George Floyd's death in Minnesota.

## ROOSEVELT MAREUS

DEAN/EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, ROCHESTER EDUCATIONAL  
OPPORTUNITY CENTER



**Years in current role:** 10

**What do you enjoy most about your role?**

The mission of the Educational Opportunity Centers is to provide tuition-free career and academic programs and services to underserved individuals in the community. In my role as the Dean/Executive Director of the Rochester EOC (REOC) I enjoy supporting the mission of the Educational Opportunity Centers and working with our wonderful faculty and staff who work tirelessly to support our students through their journey and help them to gain access to college or careers. The positive stories our students share as they progress through their programs and after they graduate reinforce the impact we have on the community and reason that I love working at the REOC.

**What has been the biggest challenge you've dealt with over the past year?**

The biggest challenge I have encountered is pivoting from in-person to remote program offerings because of COVID-19. The majority of our programs are based on clinical rotations, hands-on training and internship experiences. Fortunately, through various hybrid strategies, we were able to retain the majority of students who successfully completed their programs.

**What do you see as the biggest changes in the higher education industry in the next 3-5 years?**

Post-secondary schools will have a greater online presence. And community colleges will offer more short-term and certificate-based programs. This is why I am excited about the SUNY Chancellor's SUNY for All initiative. SUNY for All promotes online learning through in-demand programs such as high school equivalency, college preparation, and myriad workforce development programs. In addition, training and success coaches are available to provide guidance and support. REOC is the leader in the SUNY for All initiative and currently offers over 10 asynchronous programs to New York State residents.



# JACQUELINE MOZRALL

DEAN, SAUNDERS COLLEGE OF BUSINESS, ROCHESTER INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY



**Years in current role:** 7

Mozrall completed her undergraduate studies at RIT and, after obtaining a Master's Degree from North Carolina State University and a Ph.D. from the University at Buffalo, has spent her entire professional career at RIT.

She became interim dean of the Saunders College of Business in 2014 and that appointment became permanent the following year.

Mozrall is overseeing a \$19 million expansion project that will almost double the size of RIT's business college.

"This expansion will allow us to further enhance interdisciplinary and entrepreneurial collaborations, active learning, applied

research, and engagement with the Rochester business community and beyond," she said.

Before becoming dean of Saunders College of Business, Mozrall served as professor and senior associate dean of the Kate Gleason College of Engineering. She began her career as assistant professor and then department head for Industrial and Systems Engineering at RIT.

Mozrall, who was a women's soccer star as a student at RIT, was inducted into the school's Hall of Fame in 1995.

# DAVID MUNSON

PRESIDENT, ROCHESTER INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY



**Years in current role:** 4

Munson became RIT's 10th president in 2017 after serving as the Robert J. Vlasic Dean of Engineering at the University of Michigan from 2006 to 2016.

Before joining the University of Michigan in 2003, Munson, who has degrees in electrical engineering from the University of Delaware and Princeton University, taught at the University of Illinois. He was the Robert C. MacClinchie Distinguished Professor of Electrical and Computer Engineering, Research Professor in the Coordinated Science Laboratory and a faculty member in the Beckman Institute for Advanced Science and Technology.

Despite Munson's background in engineering, he places great importance on the arts. RIT's strength in the arts was a factor in his decision to join the school.

"For me that was a major attraction," he told the RBJ in 2019. "I don't have much affinity at all for universities that only do technology."

Locally, Munson serves on the boards of the Finger Lakes Regional Economic Development Council, George Eastman Museum, Greater Rochester Enterprise, Rochester Area Colleges, Greater Rochester Chamber of Commerce and Rochester Regional Health.

# ROBERT NYE

PRESIDENT, FINGER LAKES COMMUNITY COLLEGE



**Years in current role:** 5

**What do you enjoy most about your role?**

There are two things I enjoy the most. First, interacting with students, faculty and staff where I have the pleasure of watching students learn and grow, and to observe just how dedicated our faculty and staff are in serving our students and supporting them in achieving their dreams and goals. Second, participating in commencement and graduation activities where we get to celebrate our students' success. Spring commencement is my absolute favorite day of the year!

**What has been the biggest challenge you've dealt with over the past year?**

Obviously the pandemic and trying to provide the best overall support for our

students to learn in virtual modalities, dealing with resource constraints, and working to keep our entire college community safe. The biggest overall challenge was dealing with all of the unknowns and uncertainty.

**What do you see as the biggest changes in the higher education industry in the next 3-5 years?**

Declining enrollments within our region, providing better health and welfare support for our students, and evolving learning modalities to support changing student needs and preferences.

**What college class that you haven't taken would you be most interested in taking and why?**

Foreign language classes. The world is far more globalized these days. The best class I had during my entire education was a Humanities class that covered the art and literature of the Middle Ages and the Renaissance Era. I learned so much from that class that I still apply in my life today!

# ELIZABETH "BETH" PAUL

PRESIDENT, NAZARETH COLLEGE



**Years in current role:** 1

**What do you enjoy most about your role?**

Seeing the world through students' eyes is invigorating and hopeful.

**What has been the biggest challenge you've dealt with over the past year?**

Maximizing the learning and growth opportunities in a revolutionary time, while caring for people through challenge, anxiety and loss.

**What do you see as the biggest changes in the higher education industry in the next 3-5 years?**

Making clear that quality education is imperative to the advancement and health of our society.

Helping students and families with the financial investment in quality education at the institution that is best for them. Student choice should be focused on the institution that will best help them thrive rather than the best bargain.

Ensuring that higher education is accessible, equitable and empowering for all students, so our society can benefit from the beautiful diversity of human talent and contribution.

**What community organizations do you support as a volunteer and why?**

I am on the board of the Bonner Foundation, dedicated to sustained partnerships between community organizations and higher education institutions to improve the lives of individuals and communities while developing the next generations of citizen leaders. Having only been in Rochester one year and arriving during a pandemic, I'm looking forward to connecting with the many wonderful community organizations in Rochester and supporting the greater Rochester area.

## SARAH PEYRE

INTERIM PROVOST; DEAN OF THE WARNER SCHOOL OF EDUCATION,  
UNIVERSITY OF ROCHESTER



**Years in current role:** 1

**What do you enjoy most about your role?**

I am very fortunate to be able to advocate, lead and champion improvements that strengthen the educational mission of the university. I care deeply about our shared learning environment — both within and outside of the classroom. I believe higher education is an essential component of our social contract in society and as such we need to create a space for diversity in thought and nurture inclusion and collaboration. COVID has accentuated our strengths and opportunities for improvement. I love thinking big one moment and operationalizing it the next.

**What has been the biggest challenge you've dealt with over the past year?**

The fear and vulnerability that COVID has created within our community has been the largest challenge to navigate as we make decisions about instructional delivery, support resources and acknowledging burn out and fatigue throughout the campus. Everyone is at a different place in how they manage their own risk. We have had to create mechanisms for connection and support that go well beyond what we have done in the past. To be an educator, I believe you lead with your whole self. How COVID has impacted our families, our school systems, our broader community has been truly felt by those leading the university.

**What do you see as the biggest changes in higher education in 3-5 years?**

The number one challenge we will be facing in higher education is the need to increase access for all learners and to create working and learning environments that are inclusive and diverse. Education is a mechanism for us to pursue and advocate for equity. We will continue to face many societal challenges in the future and need an educated and informed community to enable us to face them together. Having a social justice frame, we believe that education can make the world more just and humane.

## DEANA L. PORTERFIELD

PRESIDENT,  
ROBERTS WESLEYAN COLLEGE AND NORTHEASTERN SEMINARY



**Years in current role:** 7

**What do you enjoy most about your role?**

The opportunity to cast a vision for the future of Roberts Wesleyan College and Northeastern Seminary. A vision that creates opportunities for students at all levels through the transformational education provided through our faculty and staff.

**What has been the biggest challenge you've dealt with over the past year?**

Continuing to move forward within the challenges of the pandemic. This past year was about judgment calls and moving forward within uncertainty. There were no "right" decisions, just decisions based on the information you had at the moment. This challenged trust and community in deep

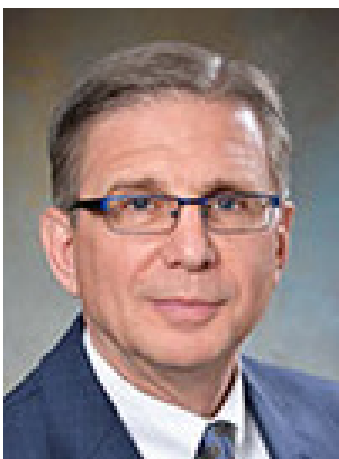
ways, pushing each person to find ways to connect. People choose Roberts and Northeastern because of the community and when that is challenged it requires a reframing of what true community looks like.

**What do you see as the biggest changes in the higher education industry in the next 3-5 years?**

Higher education will need to offer programs that are accessible, affordable and relevant. We have shown that accessibility through online education can be done, but we need to also meet the other needs within the community. Roberts is a place that is founded on our belief that character is at the core of our education. Character and "human skills" are critical to the future of our workplace and community. Offering programs and services that help anyone in our community better themselves through educational opportunities, by earning either degrees or certifications, will be critical to the future of our society.

## KEVIN RAILEY

PROVOST, VP FOR ACADEMIC AFFAIRS,  
ST. JOHN FISHER COLLEGE



**Years in current role:** 5

**What do you enjoy most about your role?**

Enjoyment comes from completing projects that improve educational outcomes for students and that impact their lives in positive ways. Supporting faculty and staff, creating new programs and hiring new people, renewing curriculum, and working with community and business partners are all ways we enhance educational experiences. The work is complex as there are always many steps to every project and various factors to balance, but remembering why one does what one does provides the motivation to keep at it.

**What has been the biggest challenge you've dealt with over the past year?**

The biggest challenge was maintaining perspective when there were so many competing demands, so many people working so hard, and so little time to recognize those efforts on a day-to-day, week-to-week basis. We were up against it every day trying to stay out in front of the virus and maintaining our commitment to our students. Faculty and staff were continuously challenged, and we confronted a furious pace while going above and beyond almost every day. We did it by remembering what we believe in and making decisions based on our values, but it was a challenge. I am deeply grateful for the commitment and dedication of so many here at Fisher.

**What college class that you haven't taken would you be most interested in taking and why?**

Journalism and Democracy: The essential role journalism plays in preserving a functioning democracy. I would love to take this class, and I would like everyone to take it with me. Our society has forgotten, it seems to me, why our founding fathers placed Freedom of the Press into the Bill of Rights. They were keenly aware of the dangers of authoritarianism and sought to deflect its rise with a commitment to people's access to facts and reliable information.

## STACEY ROBERTSON

PROVOST AND VICE PRESIDENT FOR ACADEMIC AFFAIRS, SUNY  
GENESEO



**Years in current role:** 4+

**What do you enjoy most about your role?**

As a leader, I enjoy empowering others to innovate, experiment, and "fail forward." I also revel in developing authentic relationships with my colleagues. More specifically, as the provost at SUNY Geneseo, I love collaborating with students, faculty, staff, and alumni to ensure that every student reaches their potential and launches into life with skills, confidence, and joy. There is no greater feeling of accomplishment than watching our alumni experience success and also make the world a better place.

**What has been the biggest challenge you've dealt with over the past year?**

The pandemic brought with it many challenges, ranging from health and safety to technology and communication. It required teamwork and creativity among our faculty and staff to adapt and pivot so that we could be responsive and flexible with students, even as we continued to provide an outstanding academic experience for all. It was especially difficult to promote and support well-being and belonging given how isolated so many of us felt. I am proud of the compassion, kindness, and collaboration shown by our students, faculty, and staff despite the challenges we faced.

**What do you see as the biggest changes in the higher education industry in the next 3-5 years?**

The demographic decline in the number of 18- and 19-year-olds in the coming years will create more intense competition among colleges and universities and exacerbate financial challenges. But every challenge offers an opportunity. Those who are able to creatively pivot to attract students of all ages and backgrounds through relevant and meaningful programs, clear pathways to careers and skills, and transformational teaching and learning, will not only weather the storm, but thrive into the future.



## GERARD ROONEY

PRESIDENT,  
ST. JOHN FISHER COLLEGE



**Years in current role:** 5

**What do you enjoy most about your role?**

I value most having the opportunity to engage with our students as they pursue their collegiate studies at Fisher. It is a privilege to be part of their educational journey and the most fulfilling aspect of my role. It is also very invigorating to work with dedicated colleagues who are committed to creating a student-centered learning and living environment that enables our students to flourish and realize their educational goals and aspirations. The transformational impact of education is palpable on our campus and visible in our graduates.

**What has been the biggest challenge you've dealt with over the past year?**

I would begin by acknowledging all who have lost loved ones in the pandemic and those who have served on the frontlines of society throughout the pandemic. The uncertainty the pandemic has created has been the greatest challenge of the past year for us, and for so many. We benefited from the collective commitment of all on campus to continue to deliver the Fisher experience to our students. Our ability to work together for the good of all has enabled us to overcome challenges that we have faced and to move forward as an institution.

**What community organizations do you support as a volunteer and why?**

I am a member of the board of directors of the Rochester Chamber of Commerce, Goodwill of the Finger Lakes, and Holy Sepulchre Cemetery. The good work that these organizations engage and commit to on behalf of our community, promote and advance our individual and community interests and meet the needs of individuals who benefit most from their services and in their time of greatest need. As an anchor institution in Rochester, supporting community organizations is a foundational aspect of our college's purpose and something I personally enjoy and believe in.

## JAMAL J. ROSSI

JOAN AND MARTIN MESSINGER DEAN,  
EASTMAN SCHOOL OF MUSIC OF THE UNIVERSITY OF ROCHESTER



**Years in current role:** 8

**What do you enjoy most about your role?**

I am privileged to work with a remarkable group of colleagues and extraordinarily talented students. My faculty colleagues are renowned internationally as artists, scholars, composers, and teachers. The dedication and commitment of our staff is inspirational. And our students, who come to Eastman from around the world, are passionate about making a difference in society through their music. Additionally, I have become friends with so many alumni and music patrons who care deeply about the future of music, and Eastman. The essence of music is joy, and I relish sharing this musical journey with wonderful people.

**What has been the biggest challenge you've dealt with over the past year?**

**What has been the biggest challenge you've dealt with over the past year?**

Keeping the entire Eastman community safe and healthy, while simultaneously enabling our students to study and make music in person, was certainly a challenge we hadn't experienced before. We implemented protocols that required our students to wear masks while practicing and performing — including our wind instrumentalists and singers. Musicians had to be distanced from one another — in some cases as much as 12 feet. Rehearsals had strict time limits imposed so the air in any given space could be refreshed. Our students performed concerts and recitals, but in concert halls without audiences. Fantastically, our students made wonderful music and remained safe.

**What do you see as the biggest changes in the higher education industry in the next 3-5 years?**

COVID-19 forced us to think creatively, and to embrace technology. We learned that things we previously thought were impossible were, in fact, very feasible. I believe the influence of technology to teach, make, and share music will increase exponentially in the coming years.

## ANGELA D. SIMS

PRESIDENT,  
COLGATE ROCHESTER CROZER DIVINITY SCHOOL



**Years in current role:** 2

**What do you enjoy most about your role?**

I most enjoy strategizing and planning for the school's future in a manner that invites and welcomes perspectives from multiple constituencies.

**What has been the biggest challenge you've dealt with over the past year?**

One of the biggest challenges with which I have dealt over the past year is responding to human and economic realities of a pandemic in a manner that honors our school's commitment to practices of peace, service and justice. This necessitated facilitating conversations on and initiating training, beginning with members of my executive leadership team, to address anti-Black and anti-racist practices and behaviors

within our context.

**What do you see as the biggest changes in the higher education industry in the next 3-5 years?**

I see tenure and promotion requirements, faculty staffing models, increased institutional collaborations, and tuition models as some of the biggest changes in the higher education industry in the next 3-5 years.

**What college class that you haven't taken would you be most interested in taking and why?**

As a garden hobbyist who views my time in the yard as a time to commune with God, I would like to take an Introduction to Horticulture class. In addition to increasing my knowledge of native plants, this course might prove beneficial as I seek to become a bit more intentional about ways to coexist with nature.

## KRISTIN M. SINE-KINZ

ACTING VICE PRESIDENT, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND WORKFORCE  
AND CAREER TECHNICAL EDUCATION, MONROE COMMUNITY COLLEGE



**Years in current role:** 1.5 months as VP, 9.5 years in the VP Office

**What do you enjoy most about your role?**

I'm grateful for, and am energized by, the opportunity to be a part of MCC and help to empower community members with education and training to lift themselves out of challenging situations and into economic self-sufficiency.

**What has been the biggest challenge you've dealt with over the past year?**

My biggest challenge, both personally and professionally, has been navigating the COVID-19 pandemic. Everything from supporting my middle school daughter through remote school and missing time spent with precious family members, to working with my

MCC colleagues to keep students and employees safe and engaged. It has been difficult, but at the same time, it has been a tremendous demonstration of the importance of community and teamwork. It's often in times of difficulty that we see the heart of others.

**What do you see as the biggest changes in higher education in 3-5 years?**

In the next 3-5 years, I think higher education is going to continue to see increasing numbers of non-traditional students. The institutions that continue to innovate and provide students with the tools needed to be successful in meeting their education and training goals while continuing to meet the demands of their personal and work lives will earn enrollment from this population. I think competency and skills-based education will continue to grow in prevalence.

**What college class would you be most interested in taking and why?**

I have many hobbies and interests, however, if I had to pick just one I would take a creative writing course. One day, I would like to write and illustrate children's books.



## JAMES SUNSER

PRESIDENT,  
GENESEE COMMUNITY COLLEGE



**Years in current role:** 10

**What do you enjoy most about your role?**

Having the ability to work with a dedicated Board of Trustees and talented group of faculty and staff to promote a student success centered environment. GCC truly puts students and their success at the forefront of our thinking in everything we do.

**What has been the biggest challenge you've dealt with over the past year?**

During the early stages of the global pandemic, it was necessary to develop plans to ensure the ongoing stability of the college while simultaneously pivoting to a remote mode of instruction and student support. Aggressive and challenging decisions were adopted and the success of those decisions was largely

resultant from working collaboratively with our collective bargaining groups on campus. I am immensely proud of our GCC students who are adapting to pursue their educational goals, and grateful for the efforts of GCC faculty and staff who are working tirelessly to provide the best possible student experience.

**What do you see as the biggest changes in the higher education industry in the next 3-5 years?**

The direct impact of the pandemic is still ongoing, and we understand the “ripple” effect of this past 18 months will have a profound impact on our future. Everything from student mental health and well-being challenges, academic and social preparedness, new expectations and understandings of remote and virtual capabilities to support living and learning, will all be forever changed. We continue to navigate uncharted waters and will need to adapt as necessary while staying true to our primary responsibility to support students and provide a world class education.

## ANDREA TALENTINO

PROVOST,  
NAZARETH COLLEGE



**Years in current role:** 4.5

**What do you enjoy most about your role?**

The best part about my role is helping both faculty and staff at Nazareth realize their goals. I often compare myself to a coach — I need to move the whole institution forward, but I also want to make sure that the individuals can create and innovate to reach their goals as well. It's not always easy to keep everything going in sync but that challenge is what makes it fun. And when we get it all going together, like we did for the last couple of years, it's really exciting to be part of.

**What has been the biggest challenge you've dealt with over the past year?**

Transitioning to address COVID was obviously a challenge, but I would say the

biggest part of that was not the logistical pieces — it's not easy to suddenly move everything to virtual, but it's not impossible. The hardest part was definitely keeping everyone supported and motivated and addressing the anxiety everyone felt. There were so many times when we couldn't provide answers or tell people what would happen next, and that accumulated as we went on. Trying to plan in a way that made sense and that accounted for all the concerns that people had was definitely the toughest thing we faced.

**What do you see as the biggest changes in the higher education industry in the next 3-5 years?**

Trying to become more adaptable and student-centered. Institutions always talk about being student-centered but I think the pandemic showed that in a lot of cases that's just rhetoric. Now, responding to student needs and expectations, which have changed a lot in the last 3-5 years, and introducing nimbleness to the institution are the most important needs. Having the traditional and static approach to education is not going to be successful anymore, so helping faculty and staff expect change and be open to adjusting and adjusting frequently will be important.

## MARK TAUBMAN

CEO, UNIVERSITY OF ROCHESTER MEDICAL CENTER; DEAN,  
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE & DENTISTRY



Taubman served as acting CEO of the health system in 2009 while CEO Bradford Berk recovered from a spinal injury sustained in a bicycle accident. He then took the CEO position permanently in 2015 when Berk stepped down and also became dean of the School of Medicine and Dentistry, the first UR leader to hold both positions.

Under Taubman's leadership, the health system in recent years has sought unique ways to expand its services, including an agreement to offer services at local YMCA sites; a first-of-its-kind initiative to innovate connections between health and the arts; and a planned orthopedic center at The Marketplace Mall.

In response to criticism of URMC's treatment in the Daniel Prude case, the health system rolled out a five-year Equity & Anti-Racism Action Plan that outlines strategies to strengthen diversity across the system.

“It's more imperative than ever, that we act now and attack this problem,” Taubman said in announcing the plan.

Taubman is a member of the American Heart Association, the American Society of Hypertension, the Association of University Cardiologists, and the Association of American Medical Colleges.

## ANDREA C. WADE

PROVOST AND VICE PRESIDENT, ACADEMIC SERVICES,  
MONROE COMMUNITY COLLEGE



**Years in current role:** 6

**What do you enjoy most about your role?**

I enjoy the ways we celebrate the success of thousands of MCC students throughout the year, and especially when we all come together with families and friends at Commencement. I also enjoy working with our dedicated and knowledgeable faculty to develop new courses and programs of study. I believe community colleges are social justice institutions that can make the transformative power of education accessible to aspiring students. It is an honor and privilege to be a part of a team that is committed to supporting student success in our decisions, priorities, and actions.

**What has been the biggest challenge you've dealt with over the past year?**

My doctorate in microbiology/immunology provided me with a unique background to help lead MCC during the COVID pandemic. While the pandemic presented unprecedented challenges, it also revealed the resiliency and commitment to innovation by MCC's faculty, staff, and students. MCC is gradually and safely transitioning back to a more in-person campus. While many students were eager to come to campus, there were also a significant number of students who needed or wanted remote or online options. We responded with a course schedule to serve students when and where they wanted to learn.

**What do you see as the biggest changes in higher education in 3-5 years?**

There is a need to change the funding model for community colleges so that we don't risk the availability of affordable access to higher education, most especially to historically underserved populations. In addition, higher education needs to continue to make critical changes in how it is addressing diversity, equity, and inclusion. There must be a focus not only from the lens of ensuring that students are exposed to an expanded range of representation in content and perspectives, but also that the access to and outcomes of educational systems are equitable.



## SEVIN YELTEKIN

DEAN, SIMON BUSINESS SCHOOL,  
UNIVERSITY OF ROCHESTER



**Years in current role:** 14 months

**What do you enjoy most about your role?**

Given my research interests and background in economic policy, I appreciate that my role gives me the opportunity to foster an academic community of innovation that impacts both the immediate Rochester area and society at large. I'm also fortunate to work with Simon's faculty, who are among the most acclaimed in their fields. It's been gratifying that the groundbreaking EDI (Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion) programs we have put in place are being acknowledged as setting the standard for other institutions, and I'm elated that Simon can help other organizations understand what does and doesn't work in EDI.

**What has been the biggest challenge you've**

**dealt with over the past year?**

Certainly, while accepting the leadership of a top business school during the middle of a pandemic was an enormous challenge, it was equally important to respond to the politically and socially turbulent climate. These challenges forced us to innovate in a time of crisis, which is a difficult proposition in the best of times, aside from the actual execution of organizational objectives. Without the support of the Simon, University of Rochester, and Rochester communities, it would have been nearly impossible to achieve what we have, which includes being recognized U.S. News & World Report as the Most Diverse MBA Program.

**What do you see as the biggest changes in the higher education industry in the next 3-5 years?**

Perhaps among the most significant transformations will pertain to ways of delivering more effective and flexible virtual learning methodologies. Simon is thinking critically about innovation and engagement, and we recognize that traditional ways of learning can be supplemented, and at times replaced altogether, with online approaches. The implications are tremendous.

## MARK ZUPAN

PRESIDENT,  
ALFRED UNIVERSITY



**Years in current role:** 5

**What do you enjoy most about your role?**

Being involved with higher education is as close as one can get to finding the Fountain of Youth. The opportunity to interact with such a diverse, talented, curious, and dedicated group of students and faculty/staff colleagues interested in making the world a better place is a great privilege and pleasure.

**What has been the biggest challenge you've dealt with over the past year?**

Figuring out how to keep our campus community safe in the face of the COVID while preserving the intersections at the heart of higher education. Viruses thrive on intersections and we had to learn how to mitigate some of these through vaccinations;

masking; social distancing; personal hygiene; screening; tracing; and sequestering. At the same time we preserved the intersections with knowledge; across people and disciplines; the past and the future; and ourselves and our values. Trustee Jim Jordan '72 is fond of noting that the first time he met himself was at Alfred University. Educational institutions such as ours provide a crucible for reflecting on and developing the principles that we live by — even more so when a pandemic amplifies the crucible's heat.

**What do you see as the biggest changes in the higher education industry in the next 3-5 years?**

A greater appreciation of the pivotal role that colleges and universities play in overcoming the various ills confronting humanity. The time that we have been living through has been a combination of 1918, 1929, and 1968 — a vexing amalgamation of viral pandemic and socioeconomic challenges. While the challenges have been manifold and monumental, the way to overcome them is through the education that is at the fore of the mission and vision of the higher education industry.



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