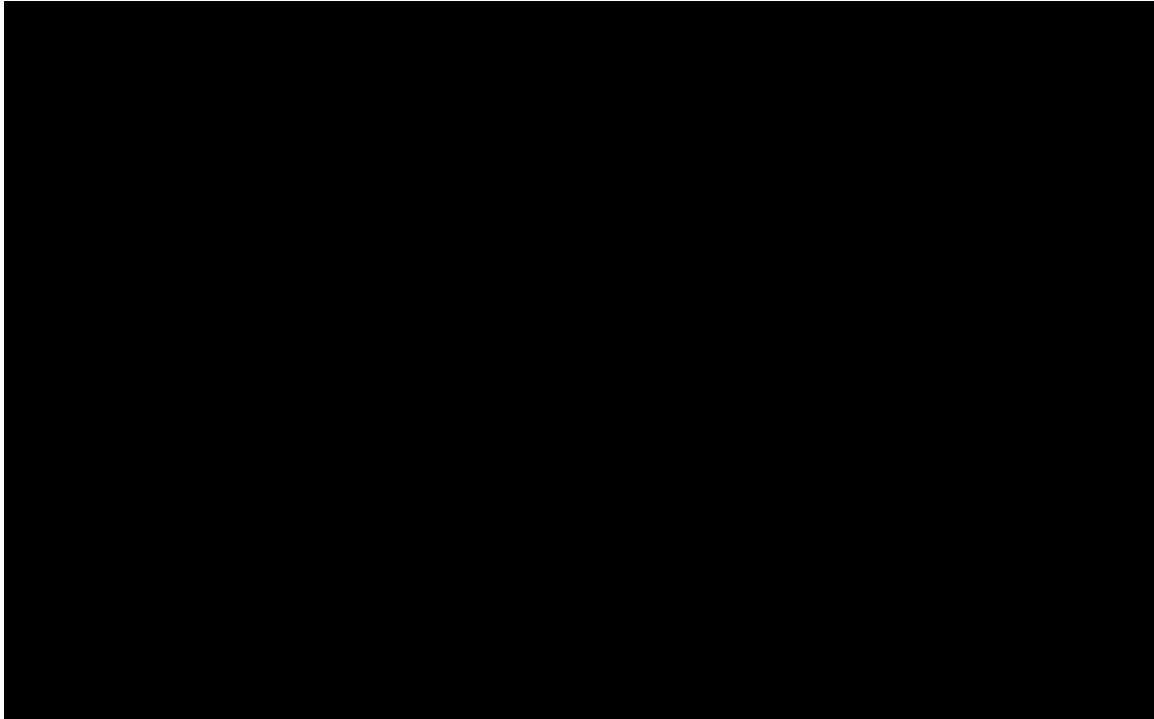




MERRIMACK COLLEGE



PROVOST BRIEFING

June 5, 2017

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Here are some of this week's top stories, and a look ahead.

- Office of Mission and Ministry
 - CETL Summer Book Groups
 - McQuade Library Renovation Update
 - Summer Payments for Faculty Development Grants
 - Open Office Hours with the Provost, every Wednesday
 - Athletics Groundbreaking, June 9
 - June Orientation, June 19-22
-

Office of Mission and Ministry

Dear Colleagues,

As the latest step in the implementation of our *Agenda for Distinction*, I'm happy to announce that the Office of Mission and Ministry, under the leadership of the Rev. Raymond F. Dlugos, OSA, Ph.D. will be integrated into the Division of Academic Affairs.

Father Ray and the office have spent seven years working collaboratively with the Division of Student Affairs to revitalize the Catholic and Augustinian identity and experience of Merrimack College.

As the vice president for mission and ministry, Father Ray will continue to serve as the director of Campus Ministry as well as overseeing the work of the Stevens Service-Learning Center, The Office of Community Outreach, and the Center for the Study of Jewish-Christian-Muslim Relations.

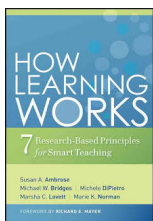
In his new role within academic affairs, Father Ray will help to develop synergy between these departments and academics that will make both experiential and classroom learning both intellectually and spiritually challenging. In addition, he will help to ensure that the academic program of the college is always "inspired by the Catholic faith and the Augustinian tradition," especially in the development of a new general education program.

Please join me in welcoming Father Ray to this expanded — and critically important — mission.

Al Weatherwax and the Office of the Provost

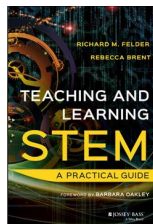
CETL Summer Book Groups The CETL is offering two summer book reading opportunities on teaching and learning: *How Learning Works: 7 Research-based Principles for Smart Teaching* and *Teaching and Learning Stem: A Practical Guide*. Please see additional information below on each of the books. In July and August, participants will have the opportunity to discuss thoughts, ideas, and strategies in an informal, asynchronous forum. The first 20 people to sign up will receive a complimentary copy of the book in the format of their choice, e-pub or hardcover. Please register below and/or contact Janet at syedj@merrimack.edu for additional information.

To register, please click: [Summer Reading](#)



How Learning Works: 7 Research-based Principles for Smart Teaching (2012): Any conversation about effective teaching must begin with a consideration of how students learn. However, instructors may find a gap between resources that focus on the technical research on learning and those that provide practical classroom strategies. *How Learning Works* provides the bridge for such a gap. In this volume, the authors introduce seven general principles of learning, distilled from the research literature as well as from twenty-seven years of experience working one-on-one with college faculty. They have drawn on research from a breadth of perspectives (cognitive, developmental, and social psychology; educational research; anthropology; demographics; and organizational behavior) to identify a set of key principles underlying learning—from how effective organization enhances retrieval and use of information to what impacts motivation. These principles provide instructors with an understanding of student learning that can help them see why certain teaching approaches are or are not supporting student learning, generate or refine teaching approaches and strategies that more effectively foster student learning in specific contexts, and transfer and apply these principles to new courses. For anyone who wants to improve his or her students' learning, it is crucial to understand how that learning works and

how to best foster it. This vital resource is grounded in learning theory and based on research evidence, while being easy to understand and apply to college teaching.



Teaching and Learning STEM: A Practical Guide (2016) presents a trove of practical research-based strategies for designing and teaching courses and assessing students' learning. The book draws on the authors' extensive backgrounds and decades of experience in STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) education and faculty development. Its engaging and well-illustrated descriptions will equip you to implement the strategies in your courses and to deal effectively with problems (including student resistance) that might occur in the implementation. The strategies don't require revolutionary time-intensive changes in your teaching, but rather a gradual integration of the old and new methods. The result will be continual improvement in your teaching and your students' learning.

McQuade Library Renovation Update

One of this summer's many building and relocation projects is a renovated space for the Academic Success Center on the 3rd floor of McQuade. The collections currently shelved there will be moved to other parts of the building, including a refurbished lower level. The books have been packed into boxes while the construction is underway. We anticipate regaining full access to the books in the last week of June.

In the meantime, librarians can help you obtain needed materials digitally or through interlibrary loan—please don't hesitate to contact us with your requests. Call your favorite librarian, or email us at mcquade@merrimack.edu. More info on this summer at McQuade can be found in the [Summer 2017 edition of the McQuade Messenger](#).

Summer Payments for Faculty Development Grants

Summer stipend payments for those faculty receiving faculty development grants will occur either in June or July this year. Please contact the Office of the Provost if you have any questions.

Other Events this Week

June 7th

Open Office Hours with the Provost

8:30 - 10:00 AM

Provost's Suite, Austin Hall

The Provost will have open office hours for faculty to drop in every Wednesday from 8:30 AM to 10:00 AM. Whether you have a specific topic or just want to say "hello," all faculty are welcome to visit.

June 9th

Athletics Groundbreaking

12:30 PM

Schelzi Plaza, Merrimack Athletics Complex

Please join President Christopher E. Hopey, Ph.D. and the Board of Trustees as Merrimack College celebrates the next milestone of the ***Agenda for Distinction***. A community barbeque will follow.

Future Events

June Orientation

June 20-22

Sakowich Campus Center

The Orientation Committee has been hard at work planning June Orientation, and we would like to request the faculty's assistance for advising and registration. Advising will take place on **Tuesday, June 20th and Thursday, June 22nd from 9am-12pm in the Multipurpose Room of the Sakowich Campus Center.**

This year the Committee is again asking for faculty assistance at one or both of the sessions to advise our incoming first year students. To the best of our ability, we will match students with their academic advisor or a member of their department, and we will need additional assistance for those students who are undeclared. We are hoping for a minimum of two people per department with extra faculty in the larger majors, but please know that ANY AND ALL faculty members are welcome to participate. As in the past, please send Mary McHugh the names of the faculty members who can be in attendance by **Monday, June 5th** at mchughm@merrimack.edu

There will be a small training for faculty participants before each morning session and more detailed information will be provided as we get closer to orientation. If you have any questions or suggestions about June Orientation, please feel free to contact your school's representative on the Committee: Mary McHugh, Peter Ellard or Allison Pukala.

The Orientation Committee would also like to invite everyone to the Family Cocktail Reception, which will be held on Monday, June 19th and Wednesday, June 21st from 5:30pm – 6:30pm in the Blue Line Club.

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