



MERRIMACK COLLEGE



PROVOST BRIEFING

July 24, 2017

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

- Office Hours with the Provost Canceled This Week
 - Melissa Siegel Joins the Office of the Provost Team
 - Taking Faculty Regalia Request Now
 - CETL and Academic Technology: Blackboard Basics, August 18
 - STEM Center Proposal for School of Science and Engineering
 - Campus Wide Chemical Waste Pick-up
 - Opening of the 2017-18 Academic Year
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**Open Office Hours with the Provost
Cancelled this Week**

There will be no office hours with the Provost this Wednesday, July 26. Office Hours will return the following week, on Wednesday, August 2.

Melissa Siegel Joins the Office of the Provost Team

The Provost Office welcomes Melissa Siegel, Director of Sponsored Programs, to the team. Melissa joined Merrimack College in October, 2016 reporting to the Office for Development and Alumni Affairs (ODAR). Since her arrival, she has been part of a team with Kathy Redmond, Director of Corporate and Foundation Relations, and together in FY17 they collectively submitted over \$4M in sponsored proposals. While this restructuring aligns sponsored and academic goals, given the connection between faculty scholarship and sponsored programs, the Provost Office and ODAR will continue to work together closely to help faculty apply for external funding. Melissa will assist with finding federal funding opportunities, proposal submissions, compliance oversight, policy and procedure development and dissemination, and post-award grant management support.

Taking Faculty Regalia Request Now

We are taking requests for faculty regalia rentals. If you are in need of regalia for the 2017 Academic Convocation, please access the [Regalia Form](#) and submit your request.

Please submit your request by [August 1, 2017](#).

CETL and Academic Technology: Blackboard Basics

August 16

[Registration Link](#)

Come with your syllabus and ideas to create or redesign your course in Blackboard. The first 30 minutes will cover the basics of setting up your course navigation, adding content folders, and setting up your grade center. The last 30 minutes, based on audience input, will focus on specific areas such as rubrics, discussions, group work, and using Safe Assign.

STEM Center Proposal for School of Science and Engineering

Madhu Dhar, Ph.D., M.Ed., has served at Merrimack College as an adjunct faculty in Physics and Astronomy since 2008. Her passion for STEM students' success and retention influenced her to pursue her Masters in Higher Education at Merrimack College. During her masters fellowship as the STEM Academic Advisor, Dr. Dhar conducted an extensive research project on the shrinking STEM pipeline in higher education. Her Capstone project proposes a STEM Center that provides infrastructural support for undergraduate students in the School of Science and Engineering at Merrimack College. The proposed STEM Center will consolidate programs under a single entity and create a continuum of resources designed to support students at every stage of their education.

With low numbers of students enrolling in STEM fields and even smaller numbers of women and minorities in the STEM pipeline, colleges and universities need to pay particular-attention to

retaining the students they have. Women in STEM initiatives at Merrimack College were championed by Dr. Dhar and helped launch our very first Women in STEM—LLC
<http://www.merrimack.edu/live/news/4066-new-residential-community-supports-women-in-stem>

The Capstone includes a detailed theoretical framework, organizational infrastructure and complete analysis of STEM enrollment and retention data and trends and is available for reference in Merrimack Scholar works.

Campus Wide Chemical Waste Pick-up

Tuesday July 25.

All waste should be delivered to Mendel 334 by close of day on Monday, unless other provisions are made.

Future Events

Opening of the 2017-18 Academic Year

Tuesday, September 5, 2017

Mass of the Holy Spirit

4:15 PM

Collegiate Church of Christ the Teacher

Community Barbeque

Immediately following Mass of the Holy Spirit

Sparky's and tent

Thursday, September 7, 2017

Classes are dismissed at 3:30 PM

Academic Convocation

4:00 PM

Hamel Gym, Merrimack Athletics Complex

Faculty line up is at 3:30 pm, first floor of McQuade Library. Please arrive dressed in regalia, (no tams). Regalia will be there for faculty who have requested rental regalia. [Request regalia](#) now.

Welcome Back Faculty Reception

Immediately Following Academic Convocation

The Executive Room, Crowe Hall

Join us for appetizers and drinks.

Tuesday, September 12, 2017

Second Tuesday First Year Advising Meetings

4:00 PM

The primary goal is to give first year students an opportunity to meet their primary advisor earlier than they do now. The Academic Success Center will centrally organize this endeavor. This

includes the marketing, securing spaces, communicating with faculty, students, and Orientation staff. More information can be found on the Academic Success Center [webpage](#).

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