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A New Challenge

University of Dayton

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A New Challenge

Beth Keyes, vice president for facilities and campus operations for the University of Dayton, has announced she plans to retire after a nearly 30-year career that has touched every aspect of the physical campus.

Keyes will step down from her current position later this year but won't retire just yet. She will take on a new role as facilities project management officer, managing the largest and most complex single project in UD's history — the \$72 million transformation of the UD Arena.

"It's a really important building for the University and a really important project for the community," Keyes said. "With large-scale, complex renovations and upgrades to the existing building and systems, and the need to do it in several phases, the project will be a significant logistical challenge.

"My first love is project management and this is a great opportunity for me to make the Arena my sole focus, and help provide a smooth transition for the next vice president. "

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Keyes said for the time being she will continue in her current role and manage the UD Arena project, relying on current staff to step up to more responsibilities while the University conducts a national search to fill her position. She expects to retire after the Arena project is completed in December 2019.

"Beth has spearheaded the remarkable growth and transformation of the University's physical campus, especially during the past 10 years," said University President Eric Spina. "As a result of her leadership, we have the beautiful campus we see today with new and renovated facilities nearly everywhere you look."

As vice president, Keyes oversees a team of more than 300 employees who are responsible for 4 million square feet of University facilities spanning 400 acres of land, including residence halls and University-owned houses and apartments in UD's distinctive student neighborhood. The division also includes a variety of campus operations, including dining facilities, retail operations and copy center, along with campus mail and central receiving.

Andy Horner, vice president for finance and administrative services, said he is very grateful for Keyes' excellent service to the University and her collaborative approach to managing projects and operations.

"We are so fortunate she is in a position to take the reins of the largest project in the history of the University of Dayton history; it's the perfect capstone to a trailblazing career," Horner said.

The University expects to select a new vice president by fall.

For more information, contact Cilla Shindell, executive director of news and communications, at 937-229-3257 or shindell@udayton.edu.

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